Morning KC

不思議な少年 1

a Wonder Boy

山下和美

講談社

不思議な少年 1
a Wonder Boy
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「不思議な少年」

a Wonder Boy

Contents 1

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人間のしを動かすものは 不安 恐怖 愛 なによりも欲望

2 ▶103 エミリーとシャーロット
一八××年、イギリス 春風になびく草原の中 少年は再び現れた

3 ▶163 狐目の寅吉
[illegible] 突然とこの地に現れ人身御供となって民を救った美しき童がいたという

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a Wonder Boy

人間て不思議だ。

終戦直後の日本に生きる家族を縛る「血」と「土地」。
19世紀末のロンドンを懸命に生きる身寄りのない少女。
生きる目的を知らぬまま戦国乱世を駆け抜けた一人の青年。

それはいつの時代も変わらない人間らしい生き方。
そこに一人の少年がいた。
永遠の生を持って「人間」を見つめる不思議な少年が。
「天才 柳沢教授の生活」の山下和美が人間の光と闇を
きらびやかに描く新シリーズ、堂々のスタート!

不思議な少年

山下和美

不思議な少年 1

山下和美

Kazumi Yamashita

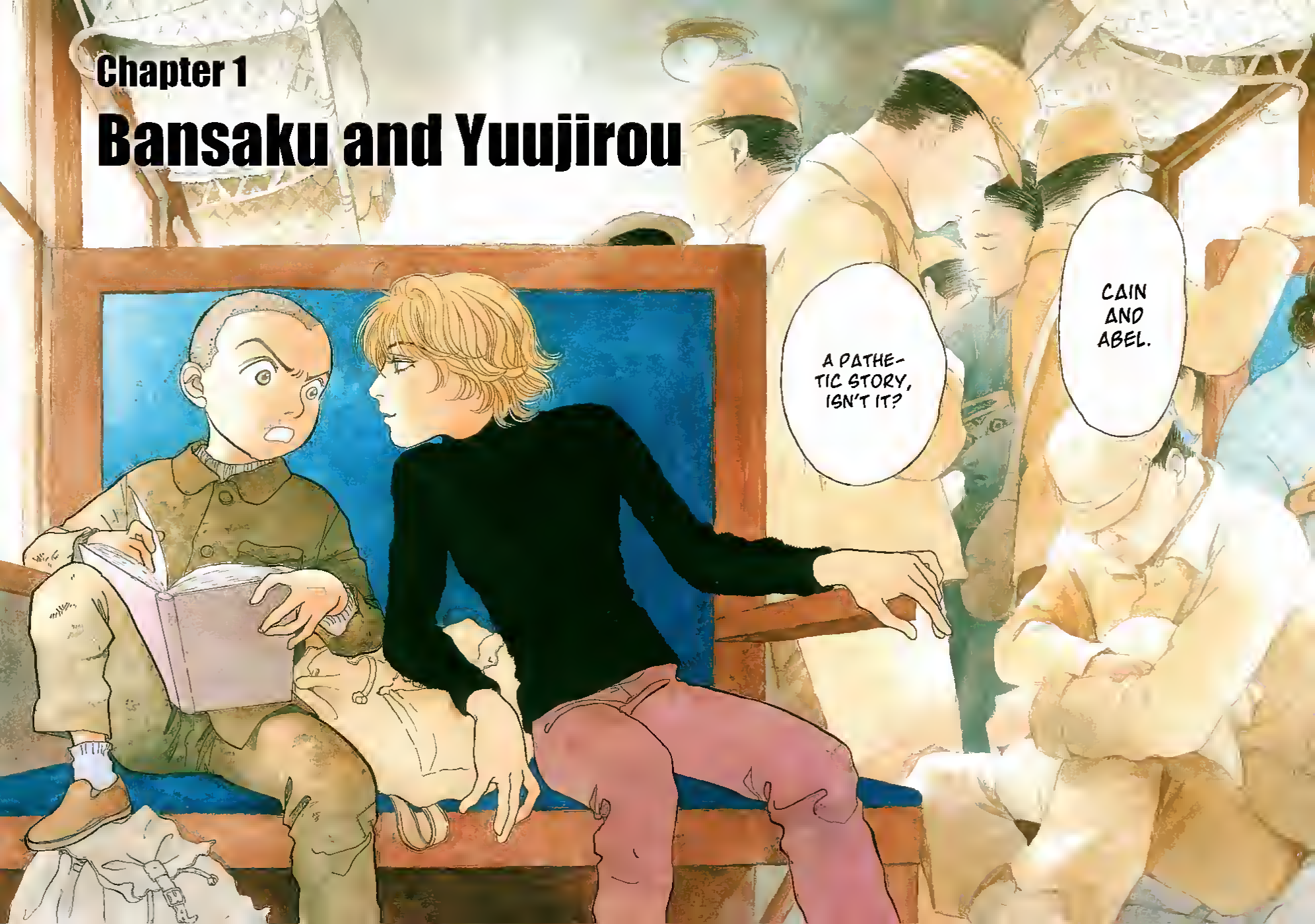
Volume 1

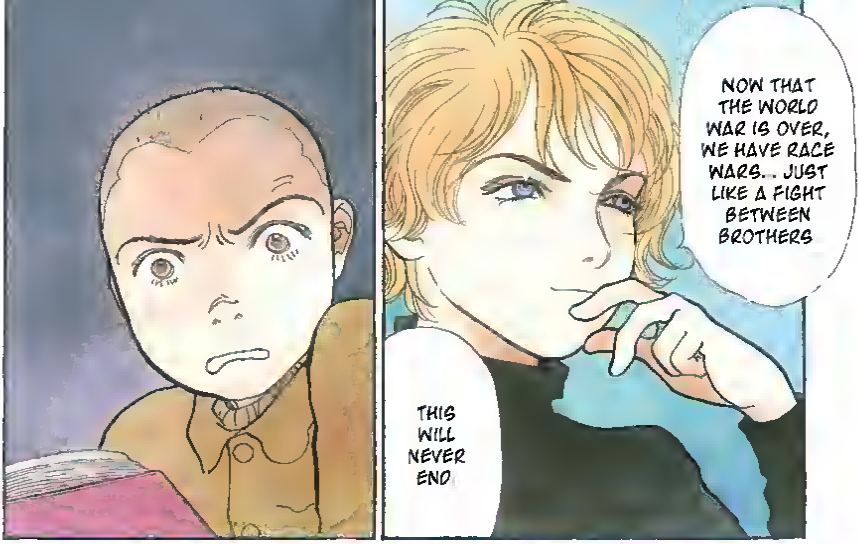
a Wonder Boy

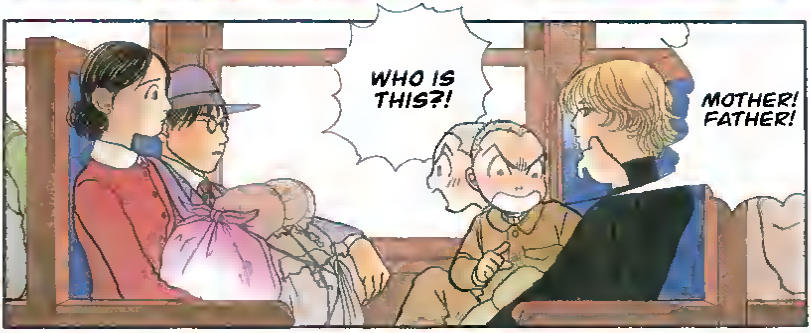
Translation: Himeyasha + Taylor
Clean: Fendill | Proof: Blueberry
Typeset: Nanaseru
QC: Edward

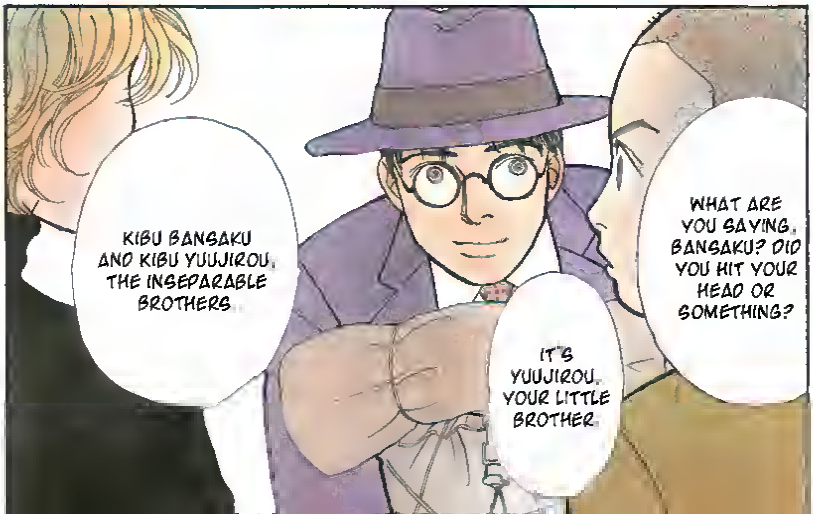
Fushigi na Shounen
by Yamashita Kazumi
A Village Idiot Scanlation

TODAY, I READ A BOOK ON THE TRAIN AND LEARNED THAT THE FIRST MURDER EVER OCCURRED BETWEEN BROTHERS.

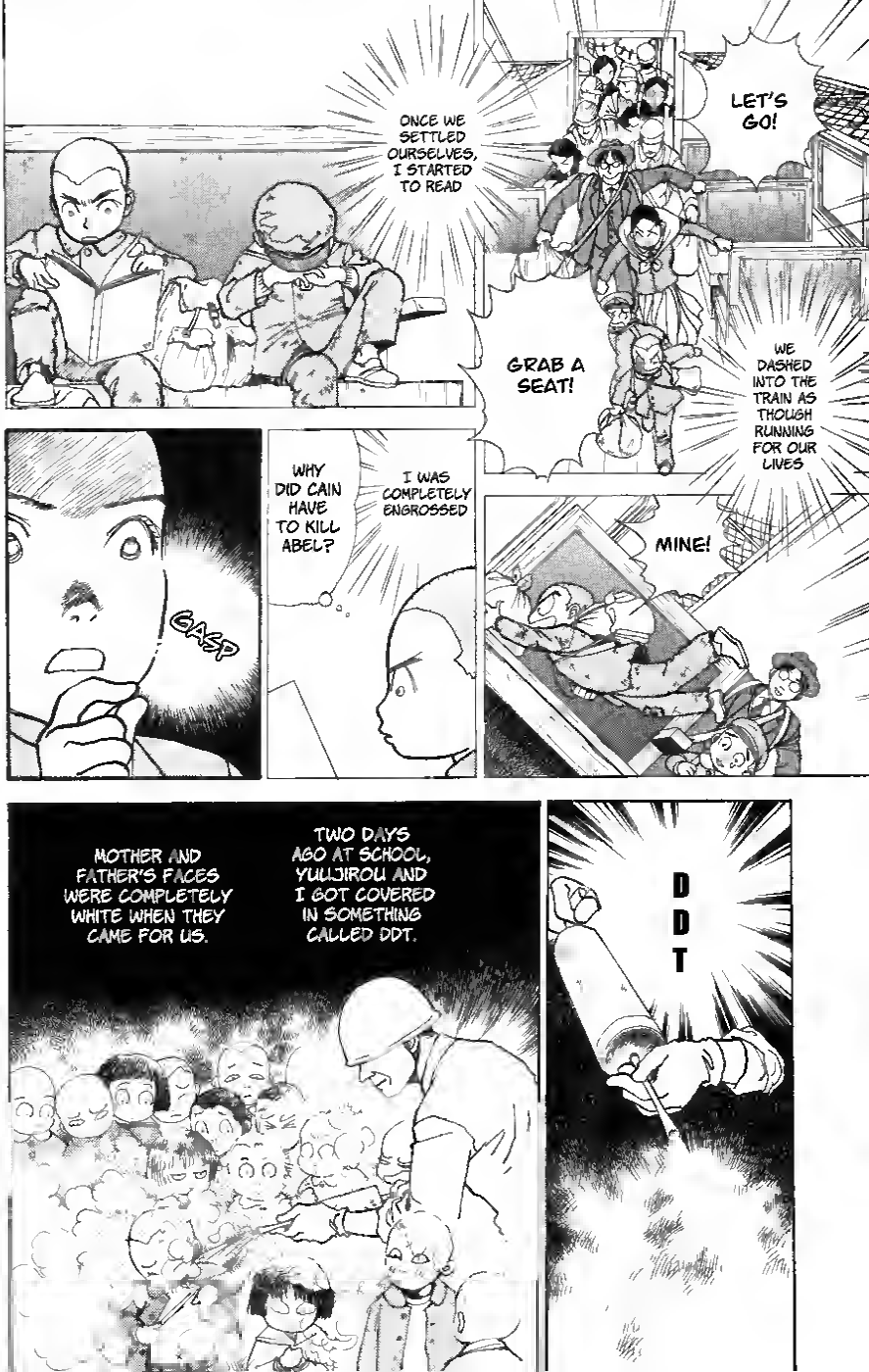

Chapter 1
Bansaku and Yuujirou
A PATHE-TIC STORY, ISN'T IT?
CAIN AND ABEL.


NOW THAT THE WORLD WAR IS OVER, WE HAVE RACE WARS... JUST LIKE A FIGHT BETWEEN BROTHERS
THIS WILL NEVER END

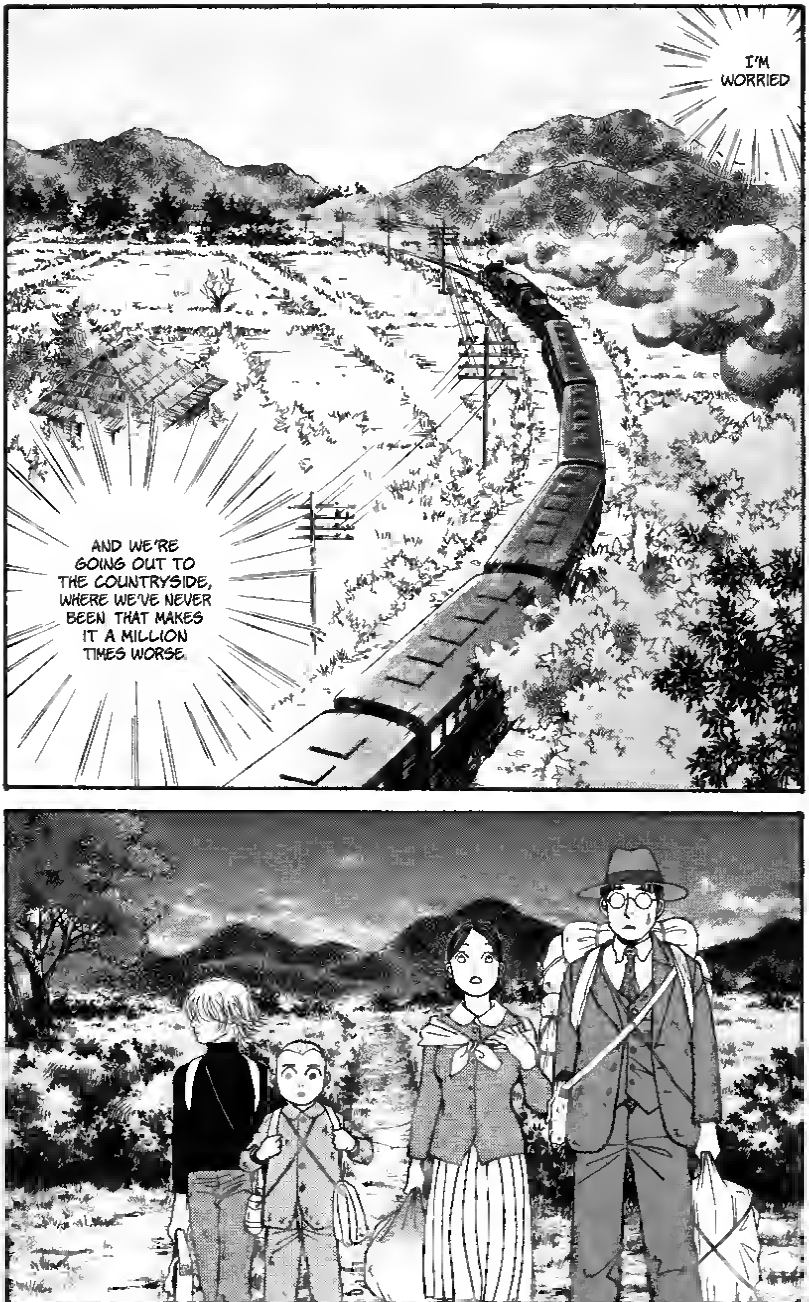

WHO IS THIS?!
MOTHER! FATHER!


KIBU BANSAKU AND KIBU YUUJIROU, THE INSEPARABLE BROTHERS
IT'S YUUJIROU, YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BANSAKU? DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD OR SOMETHING?

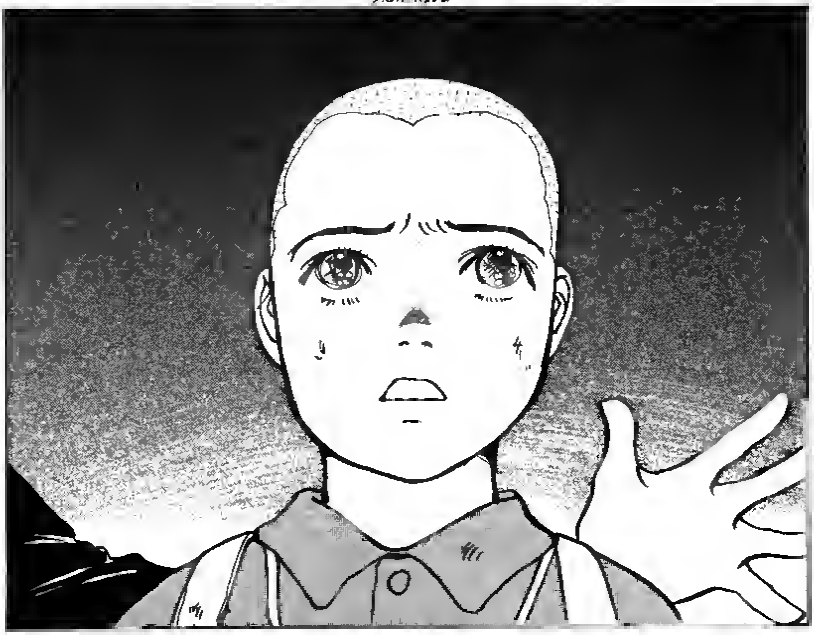
WHEN WE GOT ON THE TRAIN THIS MORNING, HE WAS STILL THE SAME SNOT-NOSED YUUJIROU.
C5636
I DON'T WANNA GO.
DON'T CARE IF WE DON'T HAVE A HOUSE, I WANNA STAY IN TOKYO.
BUT HE'S A FOREIGNER!
SFX SMIRK
WHERE THE HECK DID THIS GUY COME FROM?!
FATHER'S FAMILY, THE KIBUS, ARE WEALTHY LANDOWNERS WE WON'T GO HUNGRY ANYMORE.
C'MON, STAY CLOSE AND HURRY UP, WE HAVE TO GET A SEAT OR WE'LL GET CRUSHED.
WE CAN'T LIVE OFF THE YOSHIDAS' KINDNESS FOREVER.


ONCE WE SETTLED OURSELVES, I STARTED TO READ
LET'S GO!
GRAB A SEAT!
WE DASHED INTO THE TRAIN AS THOUGH RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES
GASP
WHY DID CAIN HAVE TO KILL ABEL?
I WAS COMPLETELY ENGROSSED
MINE!
MOTHER AND FATHER'S FACES WERE COMPLETELY WHITE WHEN THEY CAME FOR US.
TWO DAYS AGO AT SCHOOL, YUUJIROU AND I GOT COVERED IN SOMETHING CALLED DDT.
DDT

AND HE TURNED INTO AN AMERICAN.
I WAS STUPID AND FORGOT ABOUT MY BROTHER.
IT HAS TO BE THAT WHITE POWDER.
MP
THAT'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING THE AMERICAN ARMY WOULD DO
THEY WANT TO OCCUPY JAPAN AND TURN US ALL INTO AMERICANS!
SFX FUFUFU
BANSAKU-NIISAN, YOU'RE HILARIOUS, JUST LIKE I THOUGHT!!
THEN I'M GONNA TURN INTO AN AMERICAN, AND MOTHER AND FATHER AND EVERYONE ELSE TOO!!
WHAT DO I DO?!
DID THEY PUT LAUGHING MUSHROOM EXTRACT IN THERE TOO?!


I'M WORRIED
AND WE'RE GOING OUT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, WHERE WE'VE NEVER BEEN THAT MAKES IT A MILLION TIMES WORSE.

鬼舞
SIGN KIBU

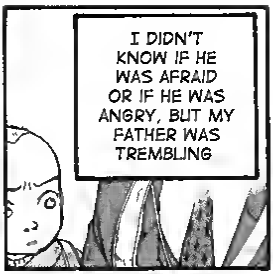


WAH!!

LOOK, FATHER'S EVEN WORSE
W-WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
BECAUSE IT WAS GETTING TO YOU
FATHER
THAT "KIBU" IS WRITTEN WITH DIFFERENT CHARACTERS FROM OUR NAME, ISN'T IT...?
ON THE OFFICIAL RECORD, OUR NAME IS REALLY WRITTEN THAT WAY.
WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR "DANCING DEMON."
鬼舞

鬼舞
FATHER'S NOT MOVING...
THAT'S WHY I LEFT THE OLD "KIBU" BEHIND...
I COULDN'T STAND THIS HOUSE, THIS FAMILY

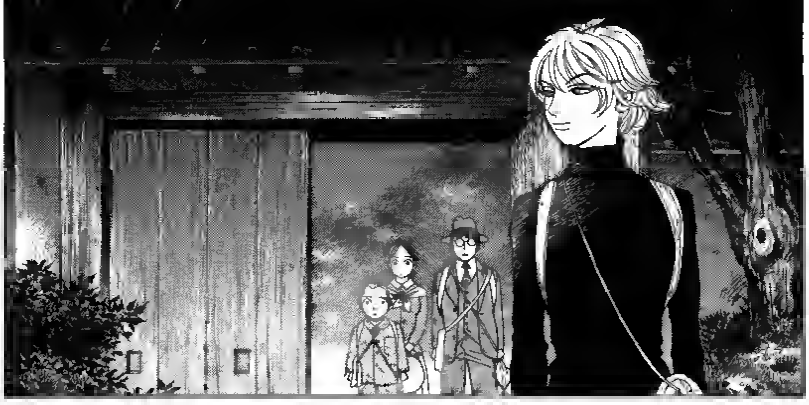
DANCING DEMON.
DANCING DEMON.
DANCING DEMON.
鬼舞


I DIDN'T KNOW IF HE WAS AFRAID OR IF HE WAS ANGRY, BUT MY FATHER WAS TREMBLING

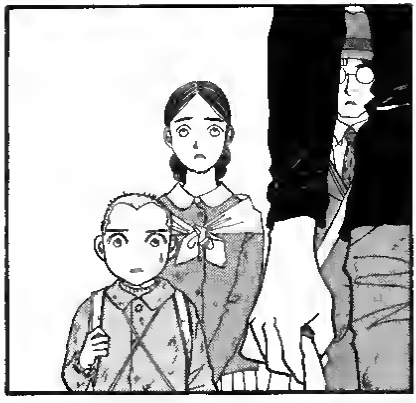
DANCING DEMON...?

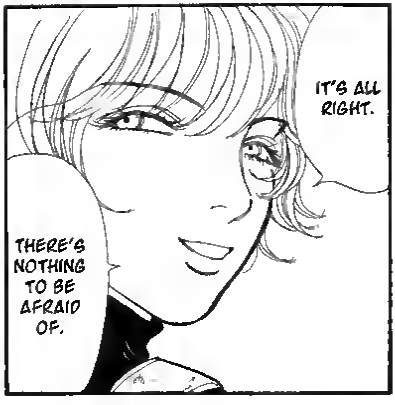
SFX. STEP
スッ

SFX. SHIVER
ブルッ
SFX. STEP STEP STEP
YUUJIROU!!



THIS CHARACTER FOR "DEMON" ORIGINALLY MEANT "SOUL."
SO, THIS PLACE IS "WHERE THE SOULS DANCE."



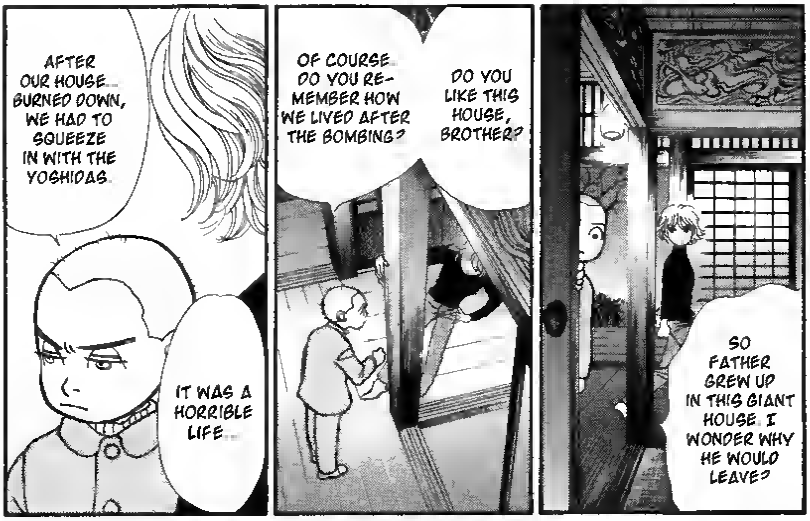

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

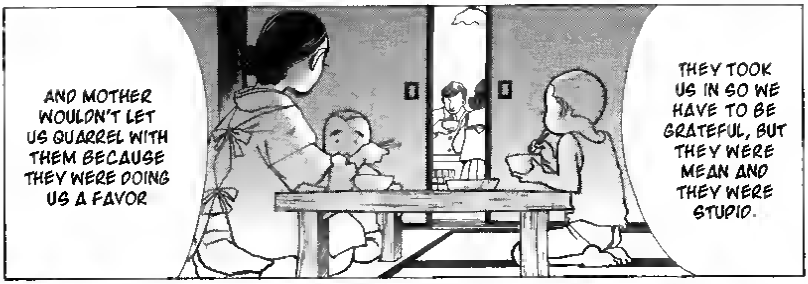
HE WALKED WITH A LIGHT STEP,
AS THOUGH HE WERE SIMPLY GOING FOR A HIKE.

YOUNG MASTER KENTAROU
THANK HEAVEN FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN.

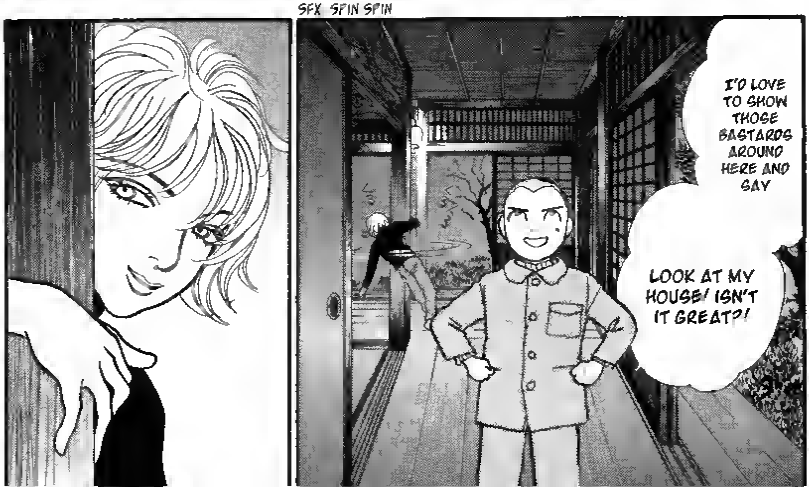
HOW NOSTALGIC. HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW, TEI-SAN?
I WAS OUT OF MY MIND WITH WORRY WHEN TOKYO WAS BEING BOMBED.
I DON'T KEEP COUNT ANYMORE...
A FEW YEARS OVER A HUNDRED, I SUPPOSE
I AM TEI I WAS YOUR FATHER'S NANNY PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE
THIS IS MY WIFE, CHIKAKO, MY OLDER SON, SANSAKU, AND YUUJIROU, THE YOUNGER

HOW IS MY FATHER?
HE'S NOT WELL THE DOCTOR SAYS THAT THIS WEEK WILL BE CRUCIAL.
SFX GLANCE
I'LL HAVE SOMEONE SEE TO YOUR LUGGAGE
WELL THEN, COME ALONG.
MY MY, YOUNG MASTER BANGAKU, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THE MASTER WHEN HE WAS A BOY. AND YOU, YOUNG MASTER YUUJIROU, YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF THE MISTRESS, THOUGH SHE'S GONE NOW.
WHA! SO DOES THAT MEAN MY DEAD GRANDMOTHER WAS A FOREIGNER?
SURE IS.
THIS HOUSE IS AMAZING, ISN'T IT, YUUJIROU?

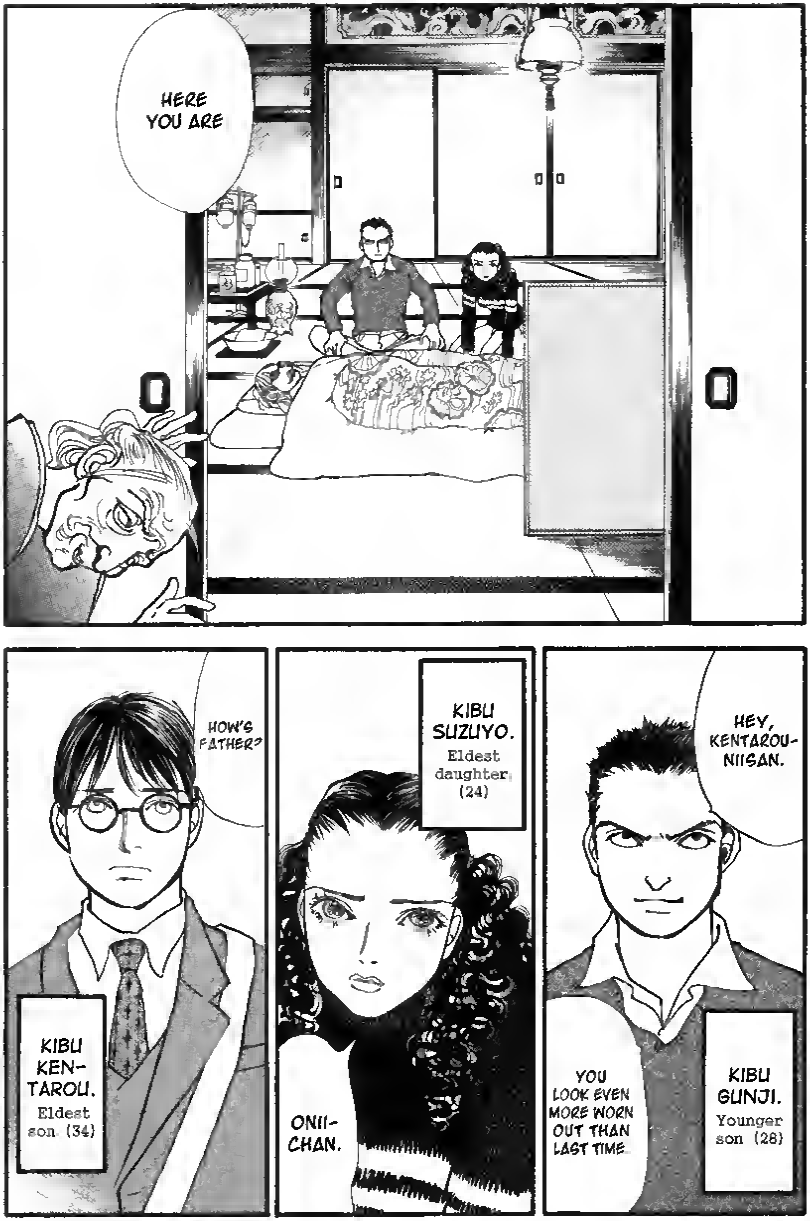

AFTER OUR HOUSE... BURNED DOWN, WE HAD TO SQUEEZE IN WITH THE YOSHIDAS.
IT WAS A HORRIBLE LIFE...
OF COURSE... DO YOU REMEMBER HOW WE LIVED AFTER THE BOMBING?
DO YOU LIKE THIS HOUSE, BROTHER?
SO FATHER GREW UP IN THIS GIANT HOUSE. I WONDER WHY HE WOULD LEAVE?


AND MOTHER WOULDN'T LET US QUARREL WITH THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE DOING US A FAVOR
THEY TOOK US IN SO WE HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL, BUT THEY WERE MEAN AND THEY WERE STUPID.

SFX: SFIN SFIN



A HUMAN'S GREED IS LIKE A SNOWBALL
A SMALL WISH ROLLS DOWN AND DOWN AND GROWS BIGGER AND BIGGER
BUT IT JUST KEEPS ROLLING, GATHERING SPEED AND WEIGHT...
WHEN DID YOU START THINKING ABOUT HEAVY STUFF LIKE THAT?!
THAT'S PEOPLE, ISN'T IT?
AND THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED IN TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF EVOLU-TION
MAYBE.. DDT MAKES YOU SMARTER TOO...


HERE YOU ARE
HOW'S FATHER?
KIBU KEN-TAROU. Eldest son (34)
KIBU SUZUYO. Eldest daughter, (24)
ONII-CHAN.
HEY, KENTAROU-NIISAN.
YOU LOOK EVEN MORE WORN OUT THAN LAST TIME.
KIBU GUNJI. Younger son (28)

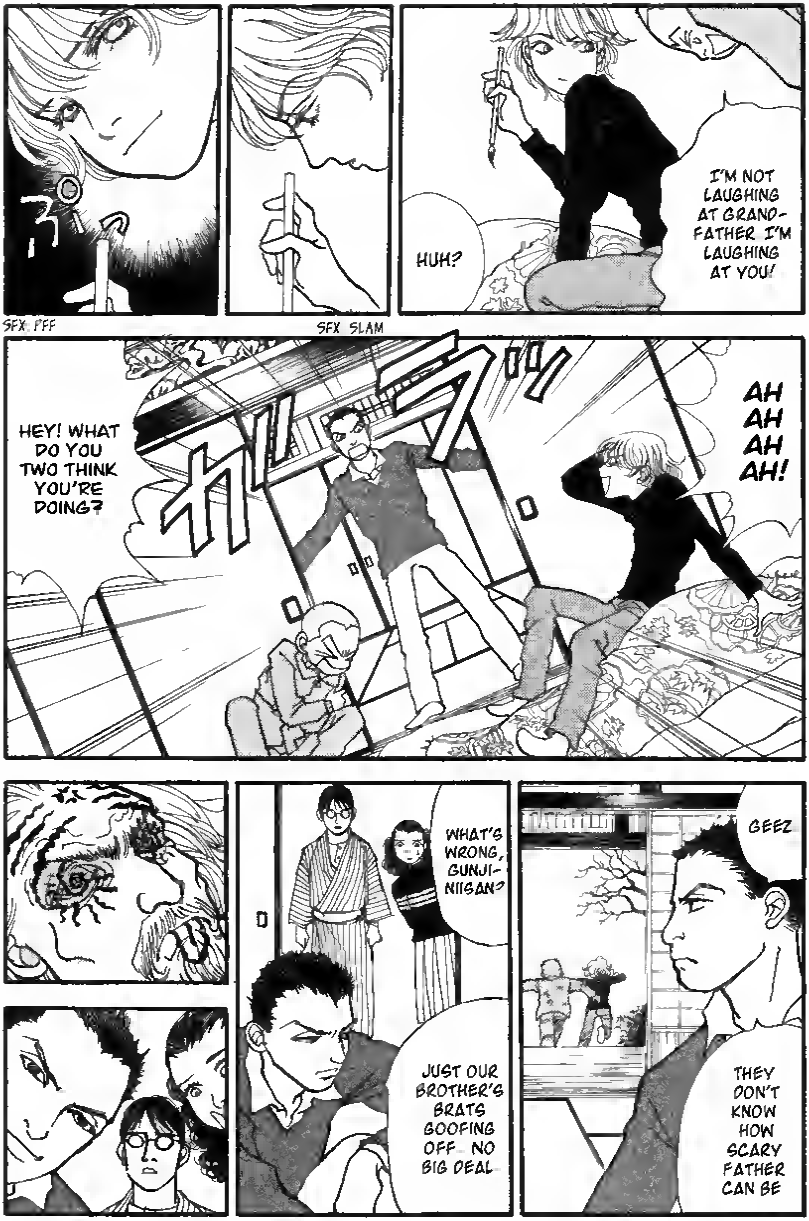
DAD'S BEEN ASLEEP THE WHOLE TIME
HE'S NOT DEAD
WOULD YOU LEAVE US FOR A WHILE?
SLIDE

I'VE HAD SNACKS LAID OUT IN THE OTHER ROOM, SO PLEASE HELP YOURSELVES
I WILL LAY OUT THE FUTONS IN THIS ROOM LATER
WE'RE COMING TO THE END, SO PLEASE STAY HERE FOR NOW
SEX STARE
MOTHER
I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM. YOU TWO GO HAVE SOME SNACKS
I'M GLAD, AS LONG AS SHE LIKES BANSAKU AND YUUJIROU

IT'S FINE.
JUST A MAN WHO'S ABOUT TO DIE
SO SCARY...
UGH I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP NEXT DOOR TO HIM...
I'M SLEEPY... SO I'M GONNA TAKE A NAP...
WHA-

THIS NEW YUUJIROU ISN'T ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM THE OLD ONE
ONCE HE'S ASLEEP,
I MEAN,
I FEEL . A LITTLE RELIEVED..
THE DDT WOULD TAKE EFFECT ON ME SOONER...
I WISH...
I'M STILL... A LITTLE AFRAID...
BUT...

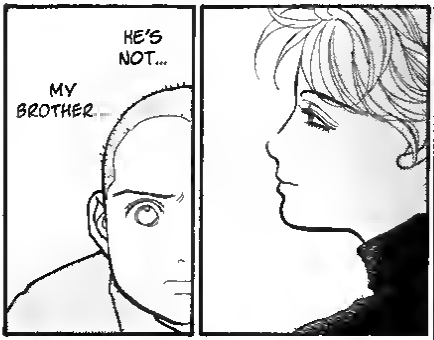
BRUSH
HUMANS BELIEVE WHAT THEY SEE AND CAN BE DECEIVED BY IT. SO I'LL USE THAT TO MY ADVANTAGE.
YUUJIROU...
PFF
HE LOOKS SILLY, DOESN'T HE?
AH AH AH AH AH AH!


SFX: I'FF
SFX: SLAM
I'M NOT LAUGHING AT GRANDFATHER I'M LAUGHING AT YOU!
HUH?
AH AH AH AH!
HEY! WHAT DO YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT'S WRONG, GUNJI-NIISAN?
JUST OUR BROTHER'S BRATS GOOFING OFF... NO BIG DEAL.
GEEZ
THEY DON'T KNOW HOW SCARY FATHER CAN BE

STOP IT, ONII-SAN
YOU SHOULON'T BADMOUTH SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN MOVE, GUNJI
LOOK AT OUR DEMON FATHER. THIS MUST REALLY BE THE END
YOU TWO ARE SIDING TOGETHER NOW?
WHAT'S THIS?
IF CAIN AND ABEL WERE THE SONS OF ADAM AND EVE, WHO WERE THE FIRST HUMANS,
WHY WERE THEY SURROUNDED BY OTHER PEOPLE?
AND WHY DID GOD ACCEPT ABEL'S GIFT OF A SHEEP BUT GET ANGRY AT CAIN'S OFFERING OF CROPS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND

LIKE THE FIRST MURDER
WOW, THAT'S AMAZING, WHY DO YOU KNOW THAT?
IT'S AN ALLEGORY
ABOUT THE WAR BETWEEN TWO TRIBES IN OLD ISRAEL AND HOW IT WAS REALLY A WAR BETWEEN BROTHERS
'CAUSE OF THE DDT.
THERE'S A RIVER
I HAVEN'T STARTED TO FEEL THE DDT'S EFFECTS YET

LET'S CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE


HE'S NOT...
MY BROTHER...

SFX FLOF

BUT... I THINK... I'VE MET HIM BEFORE, SOMEWHERE...
WHERE WAS IT...

ANYWAY, IT DOESN'T MATTER! BEING WITH HIM IS SO MUCH FUN!
YUUJIROU!!
THE FISH ARE COMING!
SFX RUS RUS
?!

GASP
YUU-JIROU!!
AHH!
PLOP

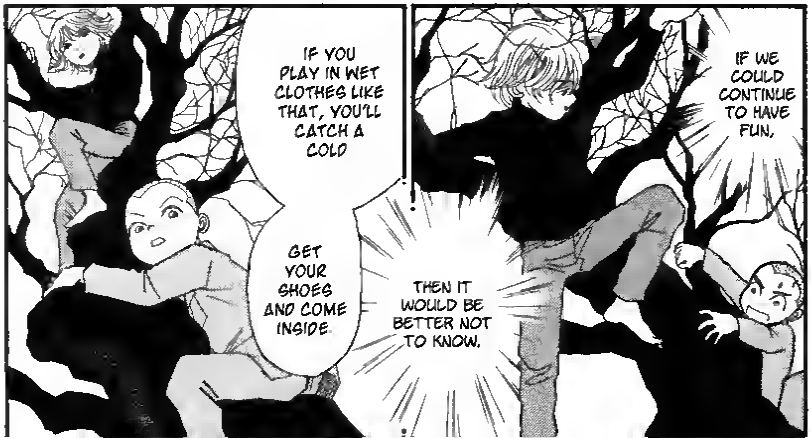
SFX: FWSSH
SFX: HACK
SFX: FWSSH

IS YOUR SWEATER DRY YET?
I'LL PUT IT ON. IT CAN DRY WHILE WE WALK

SFX: TWITTER

Kujuju...
THANK YOU.

I FELT AS THOUGH I COULD ALMOST REMEMBER MEETING THIS BOY WHO CALLED HIMSELF YUUJIROU,
BUT I DECIDED TO PUT IT FROM MY MIND.


IF YOU PLAY IN WET CLOTHES LIKE THAT, YOU'LL CATCH A COLD
GET YOUR SHOES AND COME INSIDE
IF WE COULD CONTINUE TO HAVE FUN,
THEN IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO KNOW.

I'VE LIVED HERE A LOOOONG TIME, SO I KNOW THE EASIEST WAYS.
TEI-SAN...! YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AND APOLOGIZE TO THE MASTER FOR YOUR DOODLES.
TEI-SAN!
I'VE BEEN HERE MUCH, MUCH LONGER THAN YOUR GRANDFATHER...
HAVE YOU... LIVED HERE ALL YOUR LIFE?
THIS OLD LADY WAS YOUR GRANDFATHER'S NANNY TOO.
WITH NOTHING?
WHEN HE WAS BORN, THE FAMILY MOVED OUT HERE WITHOUT A PENNY TO THEIR NAME.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE LANDOWNER HERE PITIED THEM AND LET THEM LIVE IN THE SHED ON HIS PROPERTY, AND THAT WAS WHERE I WORKED.
MANNOSUKE... YOUR GRANDFATHER... WAS VERY CUTE.
WHY WERE YOU THE NANNY FOR A FAMILY WHO HAD NOTHING?

HE HAD NONE OF THE THINGS THAT NORMAL CHILDREN HAD
BUT THE KIBU FAMILY WAS POOR

HEY, YOU THIEF!!
SFX FWIP, THRASH
SFX CRACK

I CAN'T HAVE IT UNLESS I STEAL IT.
YOU'RE A SMART CHILD, SO YOU SHOULD UNDER-STAND.
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, WORK FOR IT! USE YOUR HEAD!
HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU? WE MAY BE POOR,
SO, TEI...
IF I USE MY HEAD, WILL I BE RICH?
BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S THINGS!
YOUR GRAND-FATHER WAS INDEED VERY SMART
EVERY-THING I TAUGHT HIM, HE LEARNED QUICKLY.
HE HAD A TALENT FOR FINDING OUT OTHER PEOPLE'S WEAK-NESSES.
PERHAPS THE SKILL CAME FROM HIS HARD-SCRABBLE UPBRINGING.
BUT, MORESO,

HE THREATENED AND CONNED
HE TOOK HIS BEST FRIEND'S LAND
HE TOOK ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE
FINALLY, HE OVERTHREW THE LANDLORD WHO TOOK HIS FAMILY IN
AND RAPED THE DAUGHTER BEFORE HE THREW HER OUT
AT THIS POINT, THERE WAS NOTHING THE SERVANTS COULD DO BUT WATCH

HE PLAYED HIS FLUTE.
WHEN THE MASTER HAD A PLAN AFOOT,
THAT NIGHT, AS THE WIND CARRIED THE FLUTE'S SOUND TO EVERY CORNER OF THIS VALLEY,
THE MASTER..
KILLED HIS ELDER BROTHER FOR HIS MONEY.

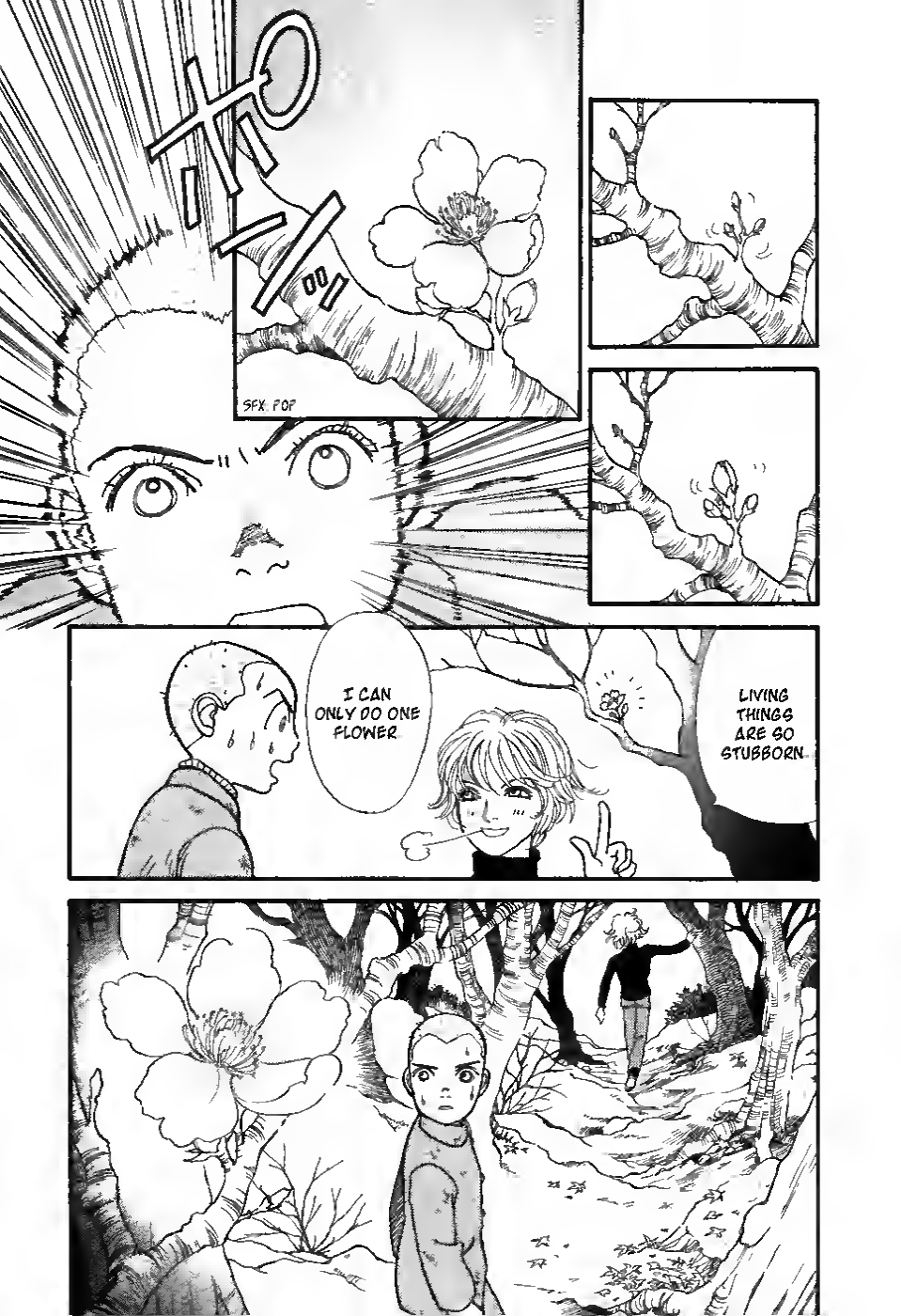
がくっ
SFX JERK
AND IN THE END, WHAT HE GOT WAS THIS...

THE HEIR TO THIS HOUSE WILL OWN EVERYTHING THAT YOU CAN SEE.
AND IF HE WANTS, THE THINGS THAT LIE BEYOND THE HORIZON MAY COME TO BELONG TO HIM

TO THE END OF THIS LAND...
EVERYTHING YOU CAN SEE...
AND BEYOND...
DID HE BECOME A DEVIL...?
THAT'S RIGHT...
DID MANNOSUKE, CONSUMED WITH THE DESIRE FOR MONEY, BECOME A DEVIL...?

I'VE LIVED FOR A HUNDRED YEARS... AND I STILL DON'T KNOW...
AND THAT'S THE HUMAN WAY OF LIFE.
LET'S GO, NII-SAN.
OKAY.
THE SUN WILL SET SOON, SO HURRY ALONG HOME.
SFX GASP
NII-SAN.
RIGHT... WE SHOULD BE GETTING BACK

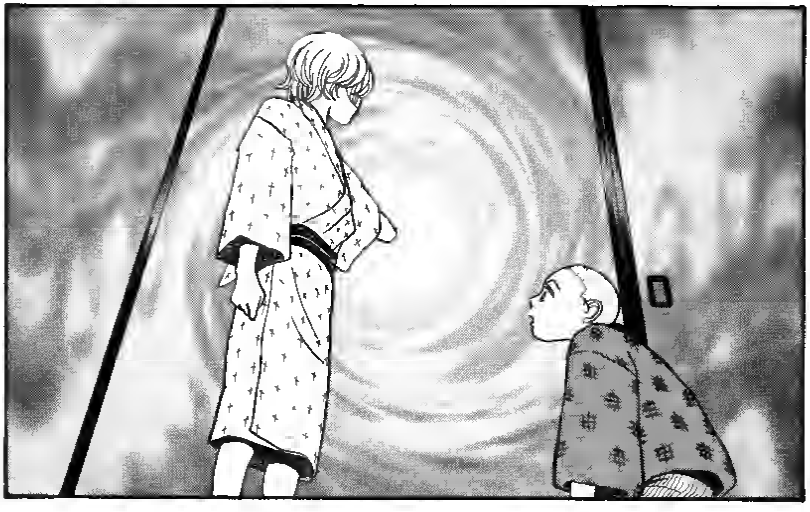
OH, YEAH.
I'LL DO SOMETHING FOR YOU, FOR SAVING ME BACK AT THE RIVER
HUH?

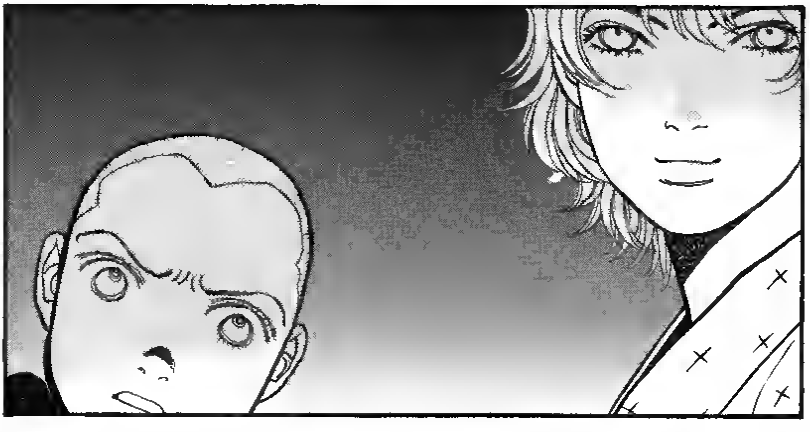

SFX: POP
I CAN ONLY DO ONE FLOWER
LIVING THINGS ARE SO STUBBORN

ヒュウウウ
ゴオオオオオオオオ
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: FLUTTER
SFX: THUNDER
YOU CAN SEE THE LIGHT FROM WAY OVER THERE...
IT SOUNDS LIKE FATHER IS TALKING WITH SOMEONE IN GRANDFATHER'S ROOM.
HEY, YUUJIROU...
YEAH?
YOU CAN'T SLEEP...?
YEAH... THIS STORM IS AMAZING. IT'S BEEN RAINING FOR THREE DAYS

IF YOU WANT TO HEAR WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT,
WE CAN TRY LISTEN-ING FROM HERE
SFX: WHOOOOOOSH
STAND

SFX SLIP

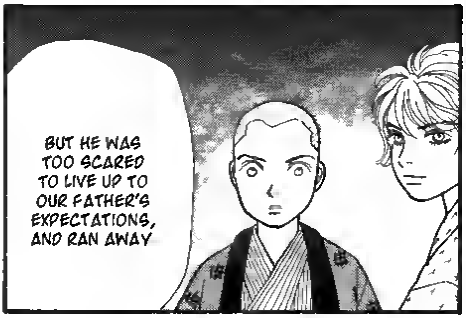




WE PUT OUR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR OUR COUNTRY, BUT NII-SAN DODGED THE DRAFT BY GETTING SICK AND GETTING PUT IN THE HOSPITAL
JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM SOMEONE WHO WROTE ANTI-WAR ARTICLES BEFORE THE WAR

NII-SAN, STOP IT!
SHUT UP, WOMAN!
NOT IN FRONT OF FATHER!

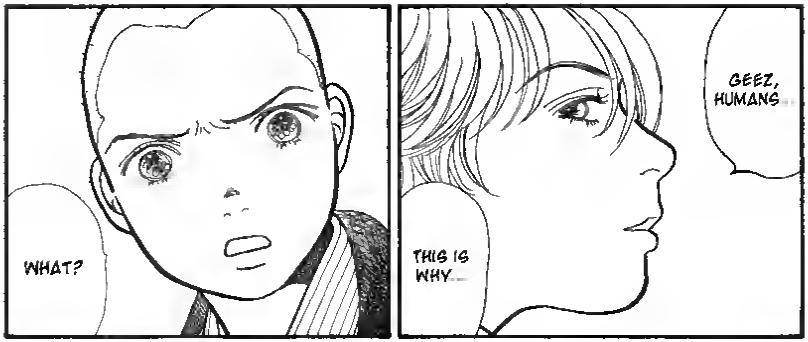
FATHER ONLY TALKED ABOUT KENTAROU, KENTAROU FROM THE START
ALL HE SAW WAS OUR BROTHER


BUT HE WAS TOO SCARED TO LIVE UP TO OUR FATHER'S EXPECTATIONS, AND RAN AWAY

JAPAN WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU!
GET ON THE GROUND AND GROVEL TO THE HEROES WHO DIED FOR OUR NATION!

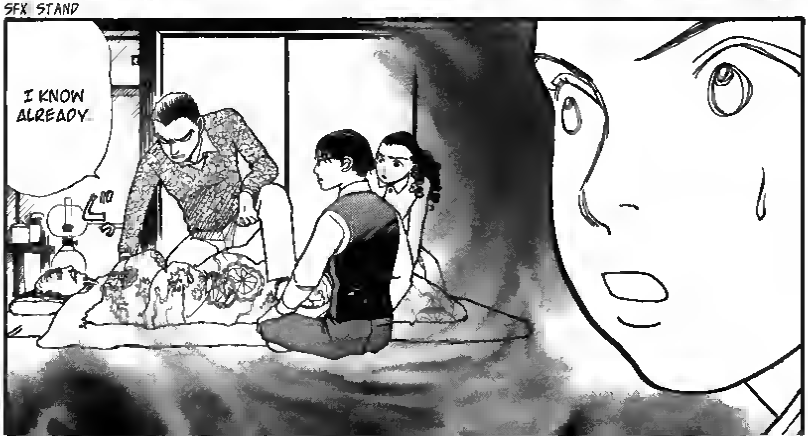
HE LEFT THE RUNNING OF THIS HOUSE TO ME.
BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW, FROM WHEN HE FIRST LEFT THIS HOUSE
FATHER EXPECTS NOTHING FROM HIM ANYMORE
YOU WON'T SEE A CENT OF FATHER'S MONEY!!
ONCE IT'S ALL OVER, I'LL PUT YOU OUT.

I THOUGHT I'D REGRET IT IF I DIDN'T COME BACK TO SEE FATHER ONE LAST TIME...
I DIDN'T COME BACK HERE FOR THE MONEY...
I CAME BACK AS A SON AND A FATHER OF TWO SONS.
N-
NO...
DON'T TRY TO SUGARCOAT IT, YOU FOOL!
PLEASE, NII-SAN, STOP IT!!
HE DIDN'T RUN AWAY BECAUSE HE WAS SCARED, AND HE WOULDN'T ACCEPT BLOOD MONEY!
HE ALWAYS SAID THAT A PERSON'S FORTUNE IS HIMSELF, HIS FAMILY, AND THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD THAT DOESN'T BELONG TO ANYONE!
YOU'RE WRONG!
DAD ISN'T, DAD ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON!


WHAT?
THIS IS WHY...
GEEZ, HUMANS...

BUT MORE THAN THAT, THEY CRAVE MONEY AND POWER
THEY THINK THAT MONEY IS DIRTY... THAT POWER IS DIRTY...

SFX STAND


I KNOW ALREADY...

NO, TO BE ACCURATE, YOU WERE WAITING FOR FATHER, ME, AND YOUR SISTER TO DIE,
SO YOU COULD HAVE EVERYTHING.
TELL THE TRUTH...
YOU WERE WAITING FOR FATHER TO DIE, WEREN'T YOU...?
SFX: FLASH
BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M THINKING.
I GET IT.

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE, A FIGHT IS INEVITABLE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SAD, BANSAKU-NIICHAN

BECAUSE THAT
IS WHERE A HUMAN BEGINS

YOU...
YOU REALLY AREN'T MY LITTLE BROTHER.
I AM.

YOU'RE NOT!!
WHY ARE YOU...
TELLING ME THIS...?
YOU CAN'T TRICK ME ANYMORE!!
SFX: FLASH

LET ME SHOW YOU, BANSAKU
SFX RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
WHERE YOUR FATHER'S SOUL DANCES

SFX: STAB STAB
SFX: SLUMP
SFX: SPUTTER

SFX: GLARE
THIS ISN'T TRUE!!

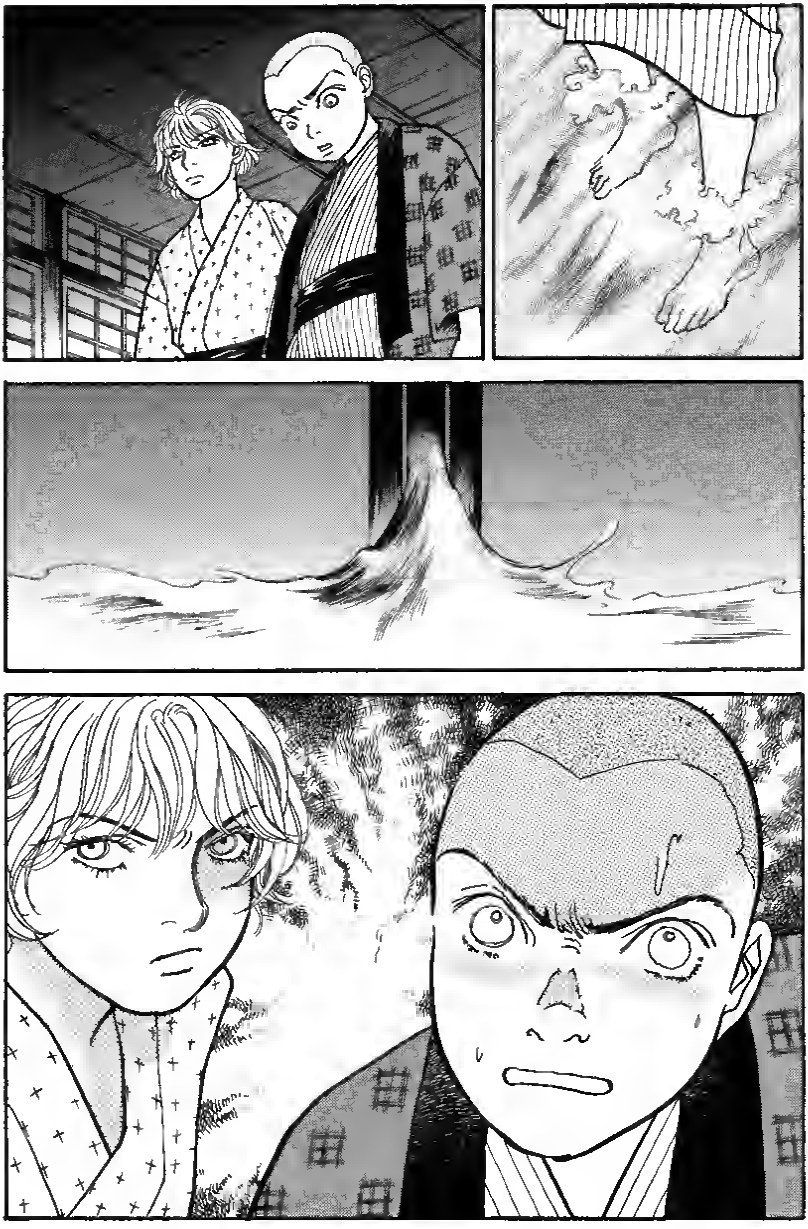
IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION ON THE DOOR.
NO!! THIS IS ALL FAKE!!
IT NEVER EVEN HAPPENED.
SFX WHOOOOOSH
NONE OF THIS SHOULD EVER HAVE HAPPENED!
YES.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE

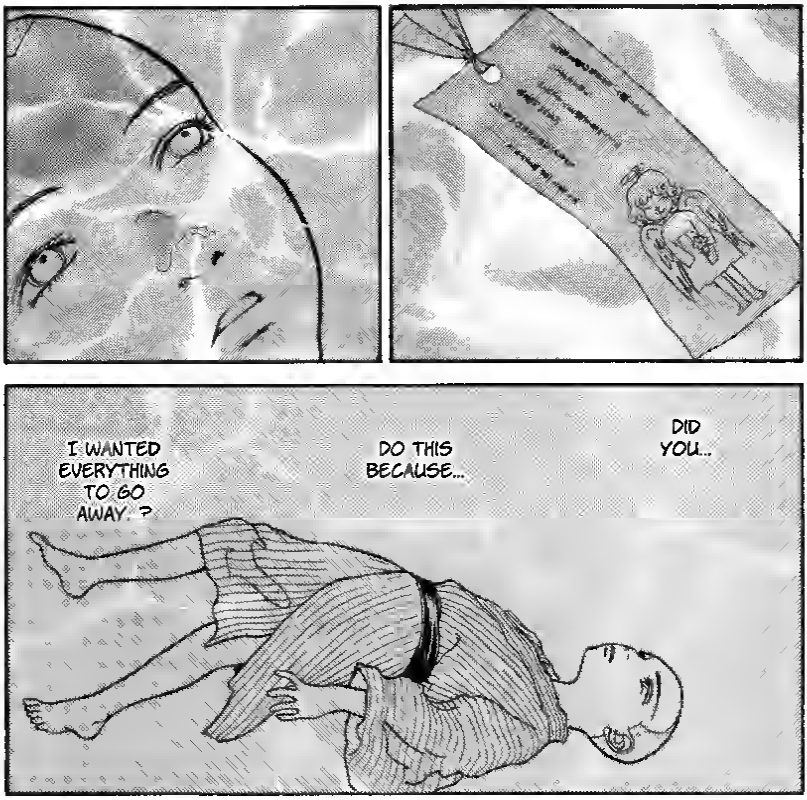
I WISH ALL OF THIS WOULD GO AWAY!!!

SFX: BUFFET
SFX: CRACK
SFX: TUMBLE

SFX: RISE

SFX CRUMPLE
SFX CRACK CRACK
FORM IS EMPTINESS, MATTER IS VOID
FORM IS EMPTINESS, MATTER IS VOID
ALL IS VANITY
ALL IS VANITY




I WANTED EVERYTHING TO GO AWAY...?
DO THIS BECAUSE...
DID YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT...
BUT YOU DIDN'T REALLY WISH FOR EVERYTHING TO GO AWAY.

WHAT YOU WANTED...
WAS FOR EVERYONE ELSE TO GO AWAY, SO THAT YOU COULD HAVE EVERY-THING!!

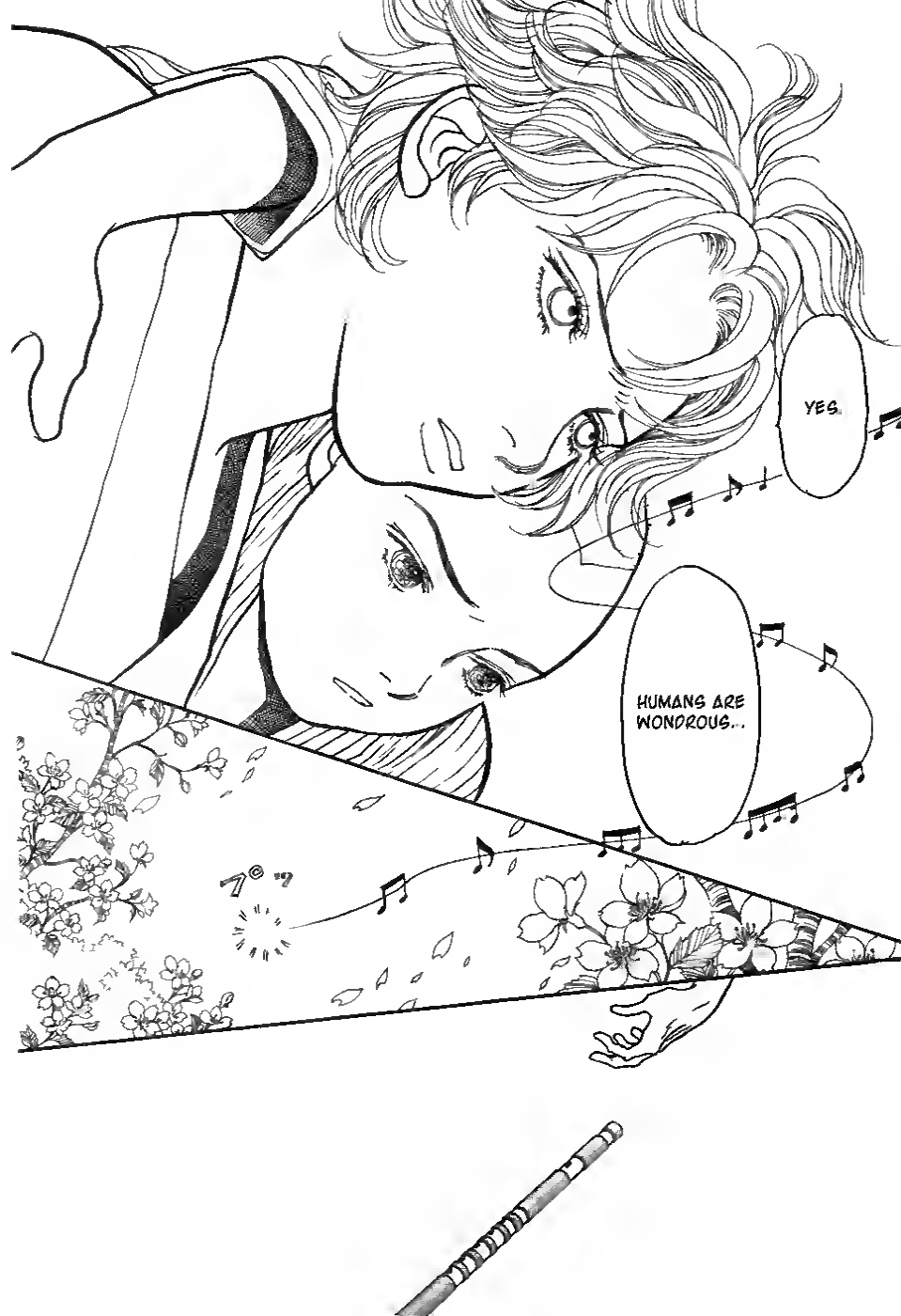
DO YOU UNDER-STAND NOW?
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY...?
WILL I ALSO KILL MY LITTLE BRO-THER...?
BOTH YOUR GRAND-FATHER AND YOUR FATHER
KILLED THEIR BROTHERS.
DID YOU SAVE ME... JUST SO YOU COULD SEE THAT...?
DID I ALSO... INHERIT THE BLOOD OF CAIN AND ABEL...?

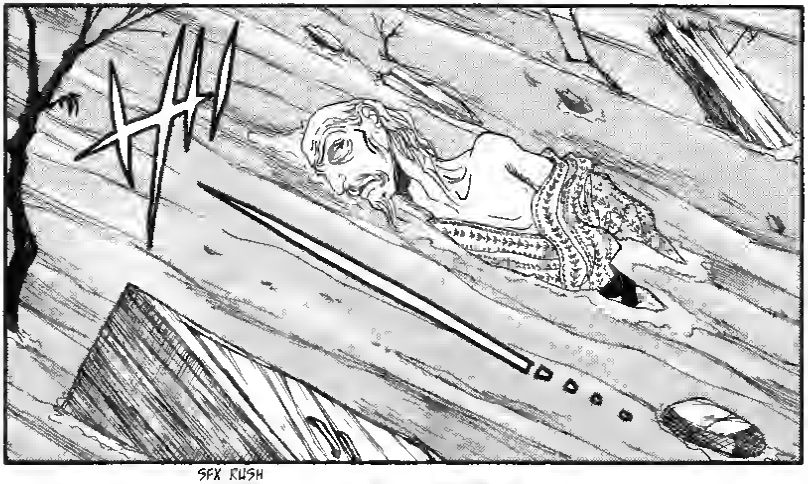
SOMEONE'S PLAYING A FLUTE...
IT'S... A LONELY, SAD SONG, ISN'T IT... YUUJIROU...
YES...

BUT... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SOUND.

SFX: FO

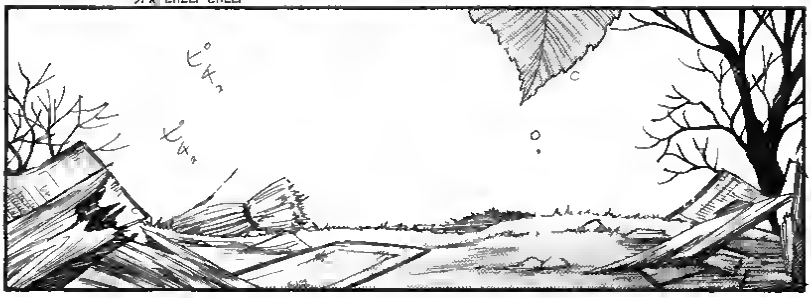
HUMANS... HUMANS ARE SO...
YUUJIROU
THE SOUND OF A MAN WHO'S GOTTEN EVERYTHING HE'S EVER WANTED?
SO, THIS IS...

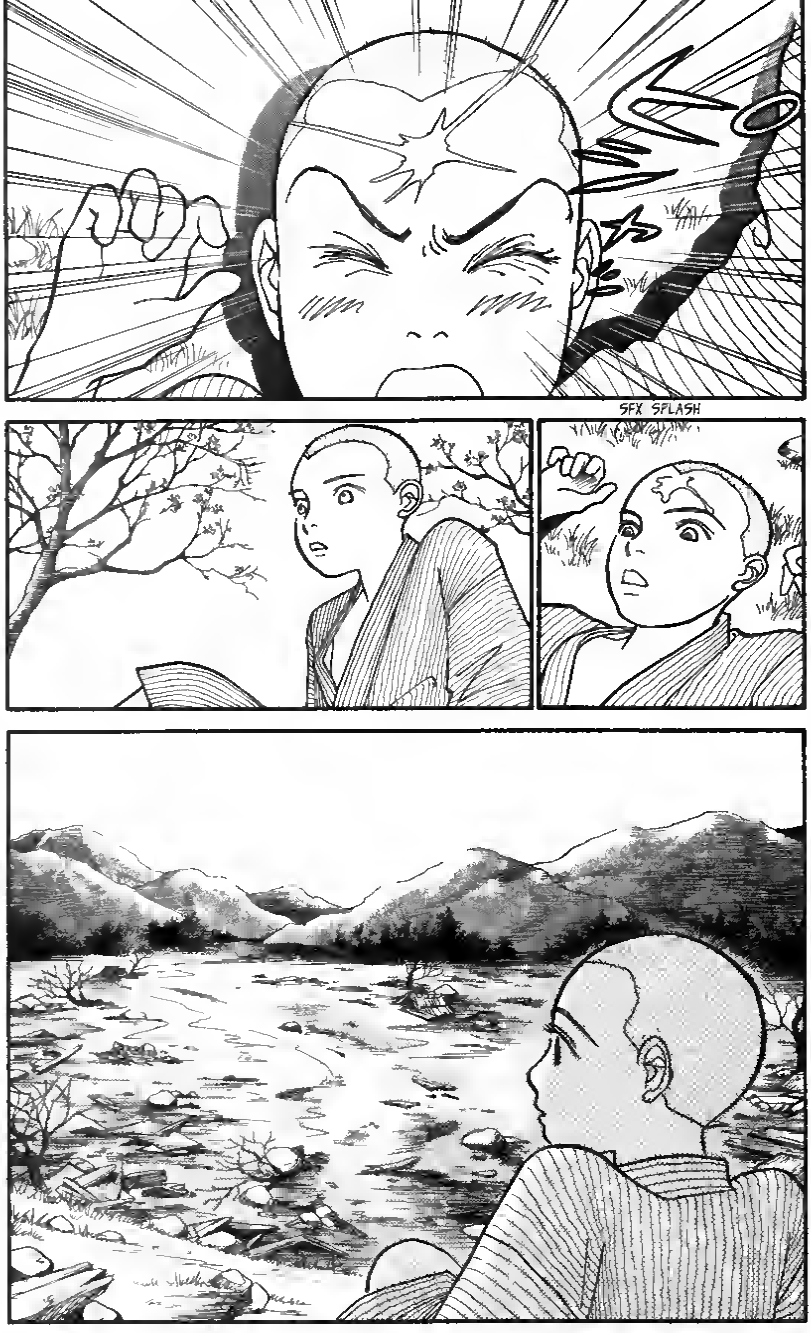

YES.
HUMANS ARE WONDROUS...

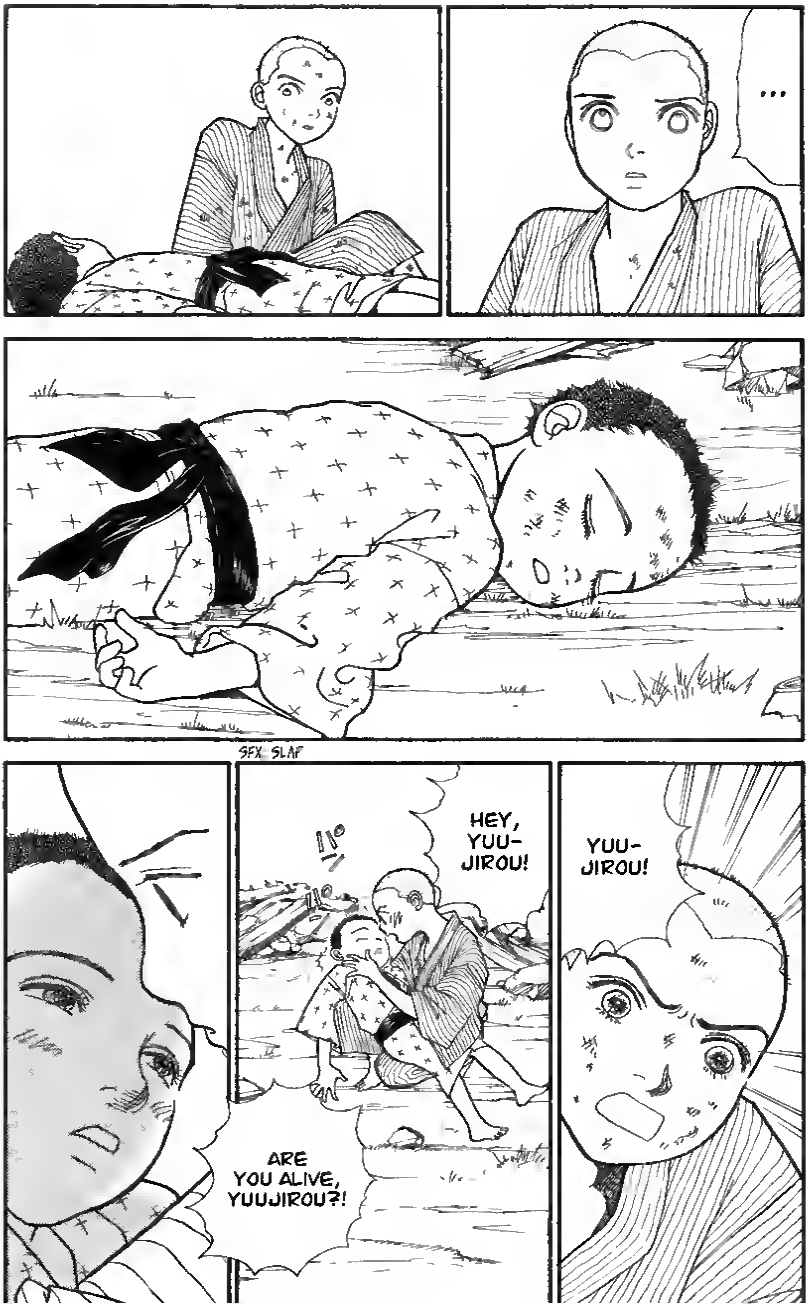


SFX RUSH

SFX CHEEP CHEEP

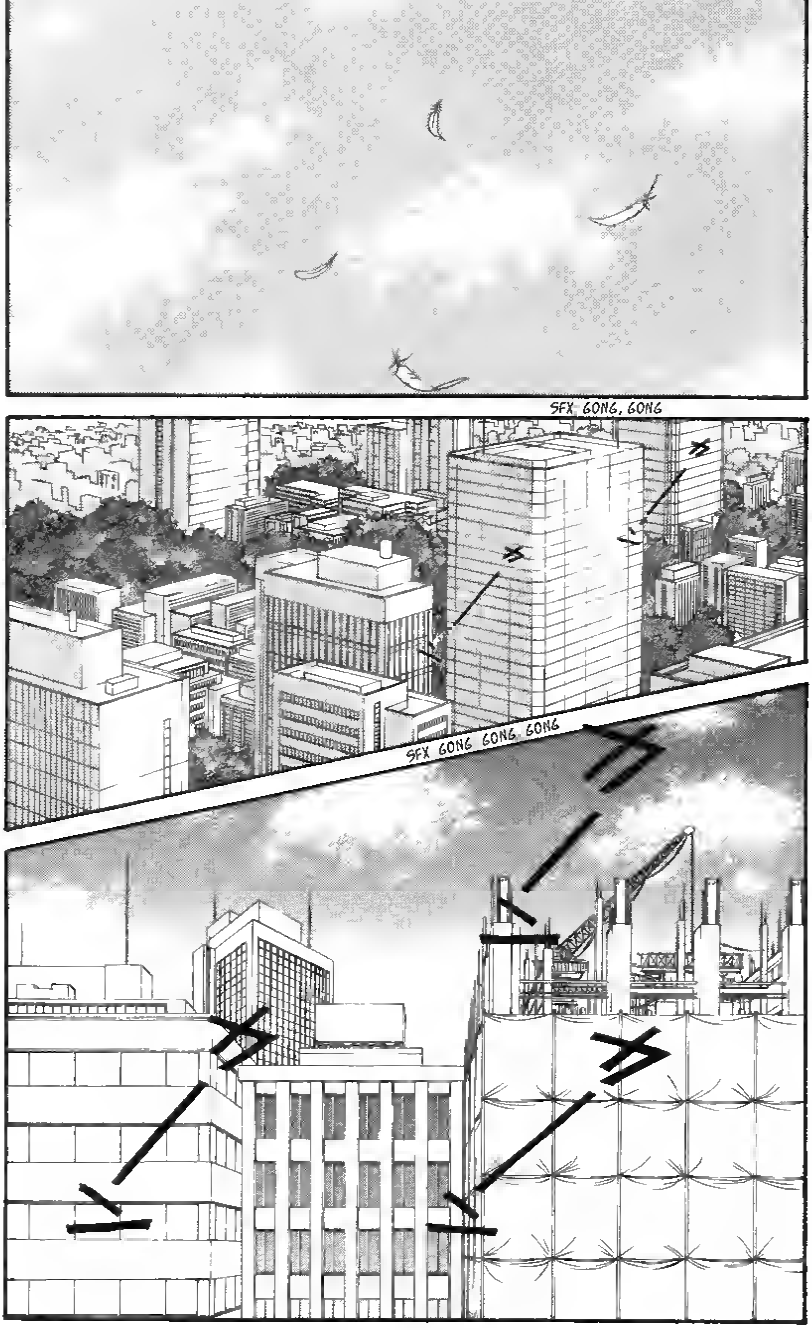


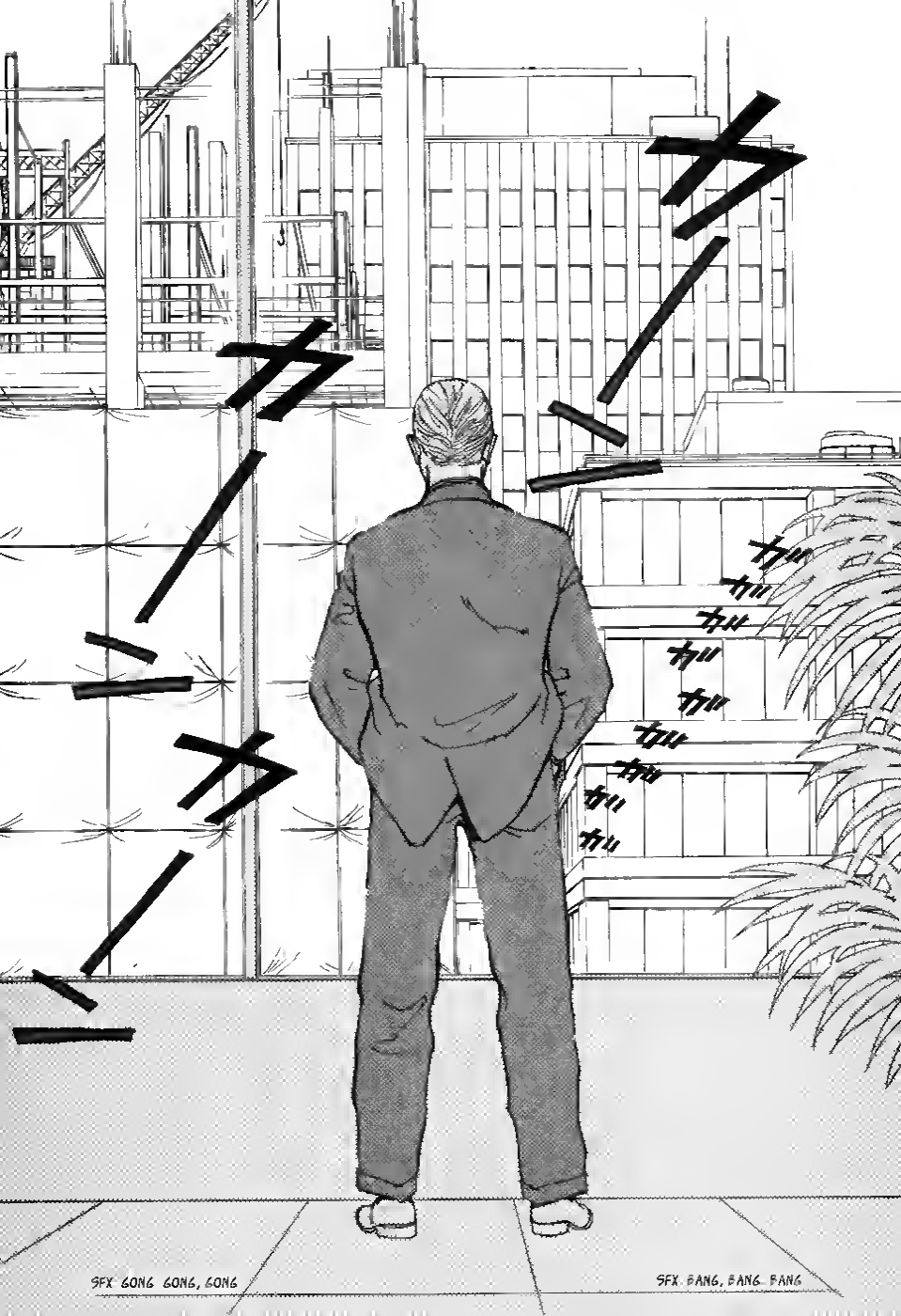

SFX SPLASH

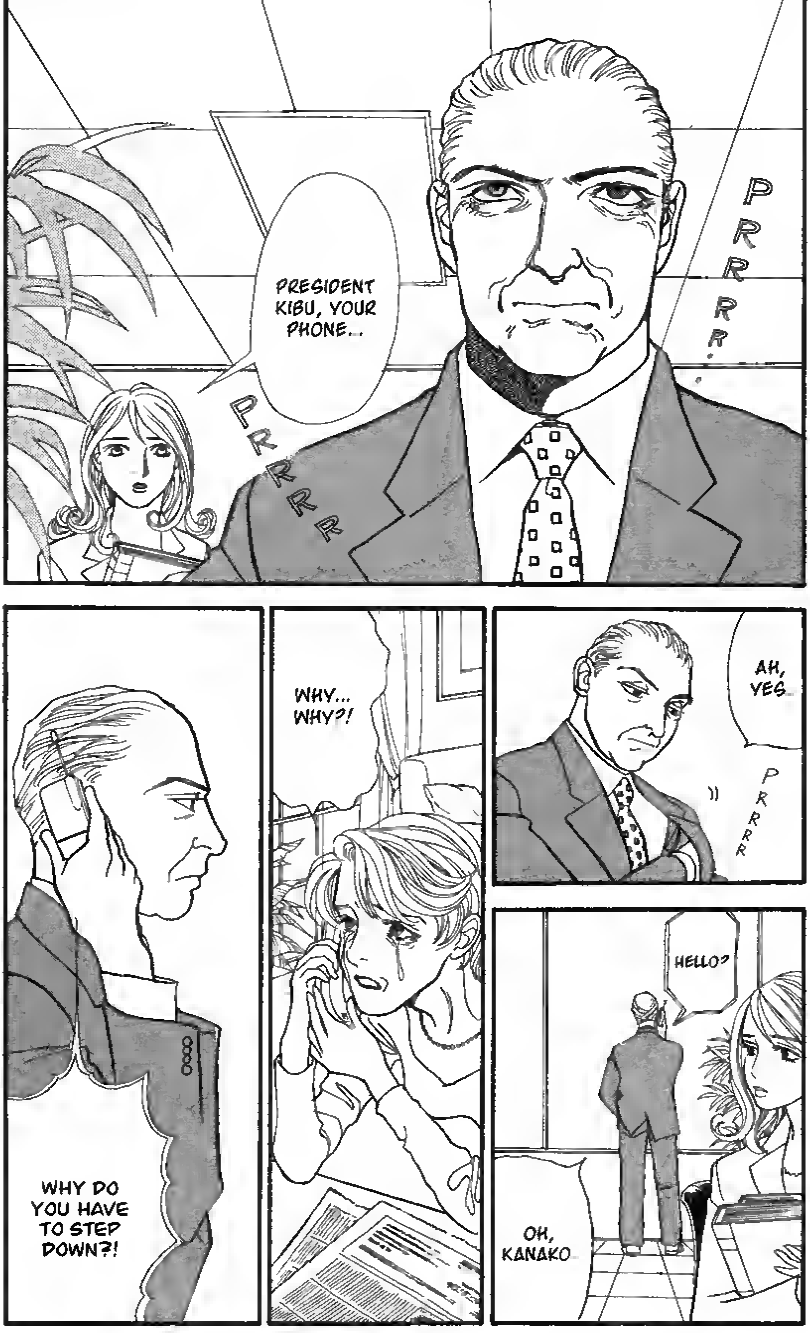

...
SFX: SLAP
HEY, YUU-JIROU!
YUU-JIROU!
ARE YOU ALIVE, YUUJIROU?!

ONII-CHAN...?
SFX: SQUEEZE

MY ENTIRE LIFE
AFTER THIS WILL
BE A TEST...!!


SFX GONG, GONG
SFX GONG GONG GONG


SFX GONG GONG, GONG
SFX BANG, BANG BANG

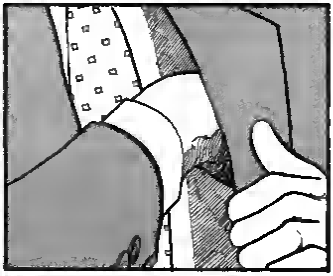

PRESIDENT KIBU, YOUR PHONE...
PRRRR
PRRRR.
AH, YES
PRRRR
HELLO?
OH, KANAKO
WHY... WHY?!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STEP DOWN?!

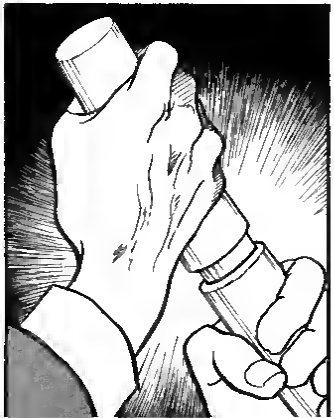
WHAT FOR?! THIS WHOLE THING WAS A TRAP! A TRAP HE SET TO TAKE EVERYTHING FROM YOU!
I'M THE CEO
I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY.
HAHAHA, IT WAS EASIER FOR ME TO MAKE IT THAN TO KEEP IT...
YOU STARTED THIS COMPANY FROM NOTHING!!
SFX: BEEP
THE NEW PRESIDENT IS HERE...
EXCUSE ME... PRESI-DENT...

YOU CAN LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

BROTHER.

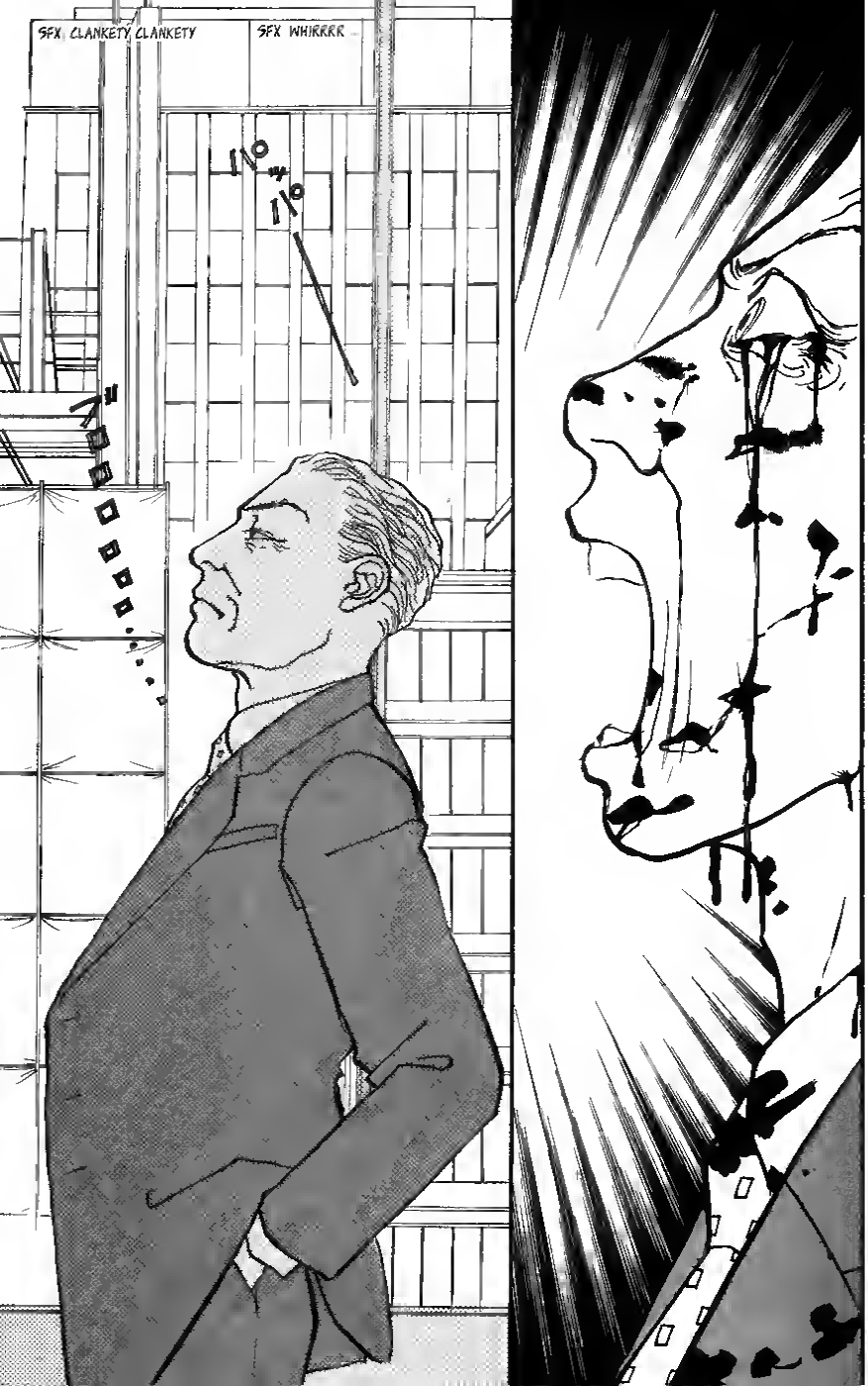
HMM?
YUUJIROU.

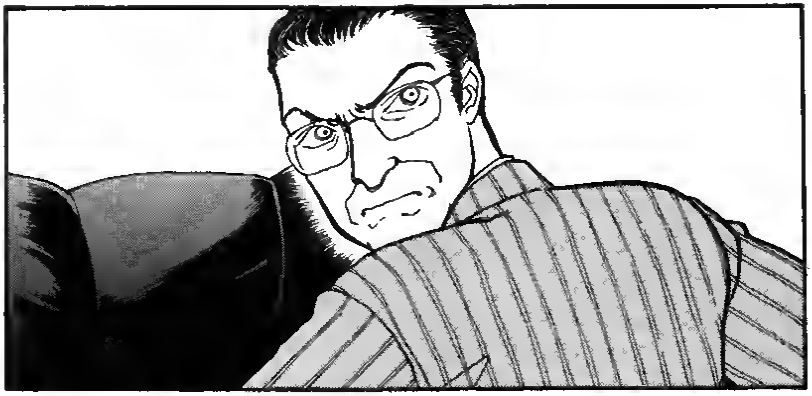




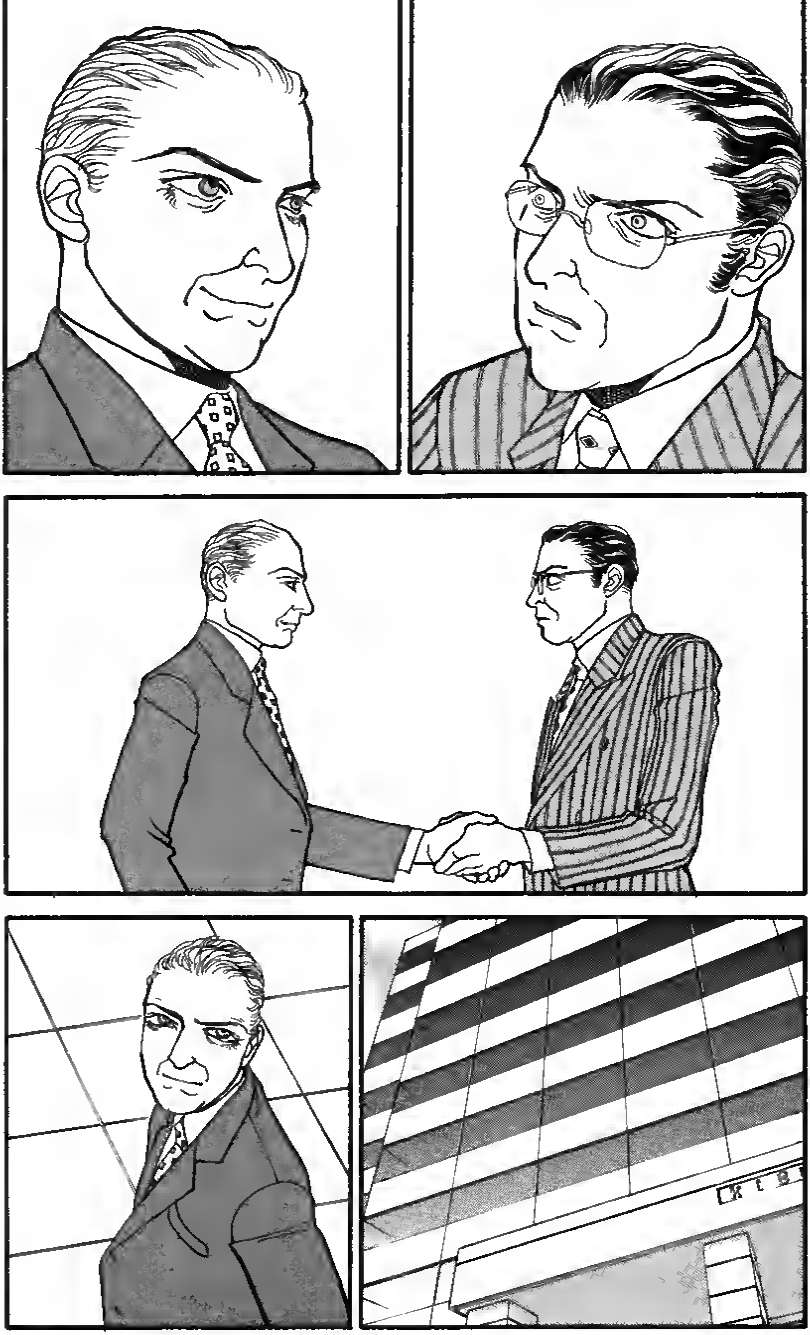
WHAT?!
BRO...
SFX: SLIP

SFX STAB STAB STAB STAB


SFX: CLANKETY CLANKETY
SFX: WHIRRRR



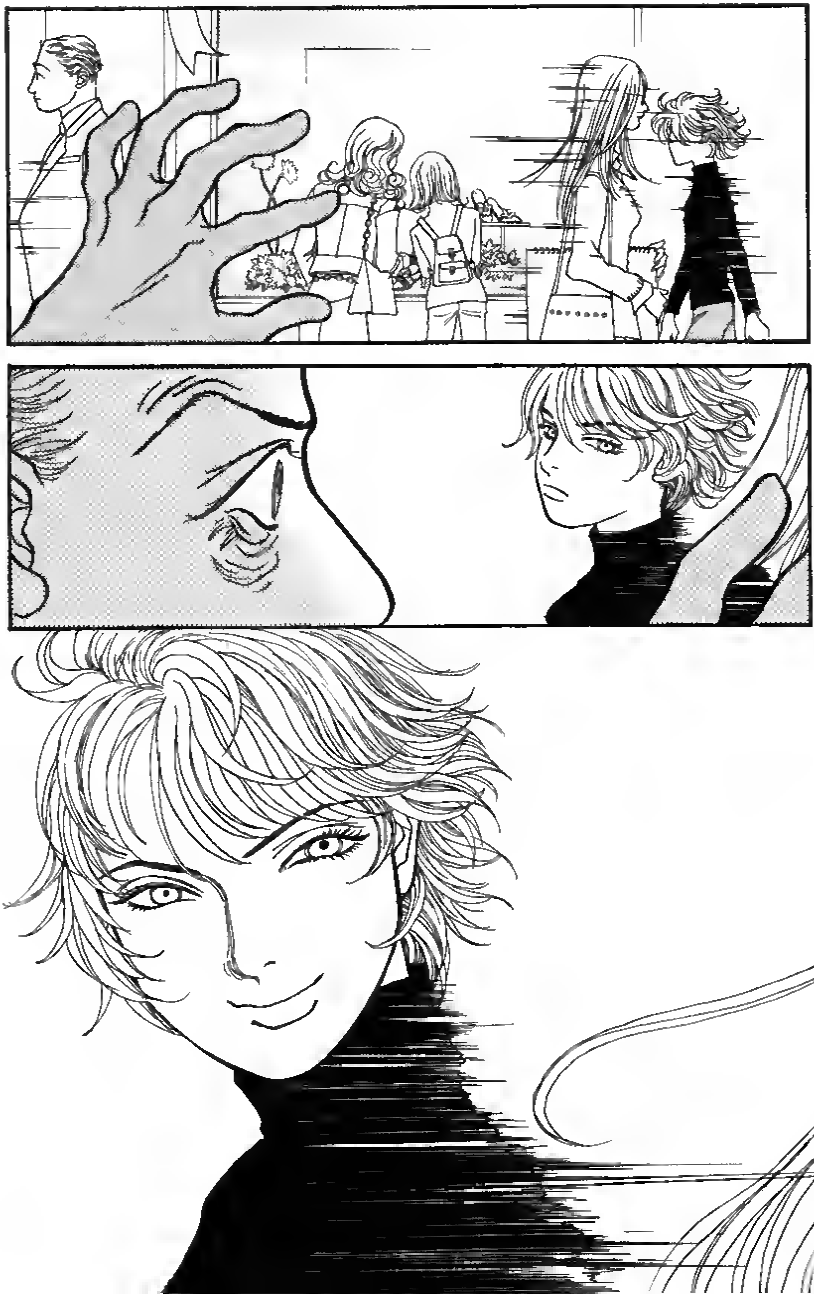
I KNOW HOW HARD YOU'VE WORKED TO GET THIS FAR YOU'VE DONE US PROUD
CONGRATU-LATIONS



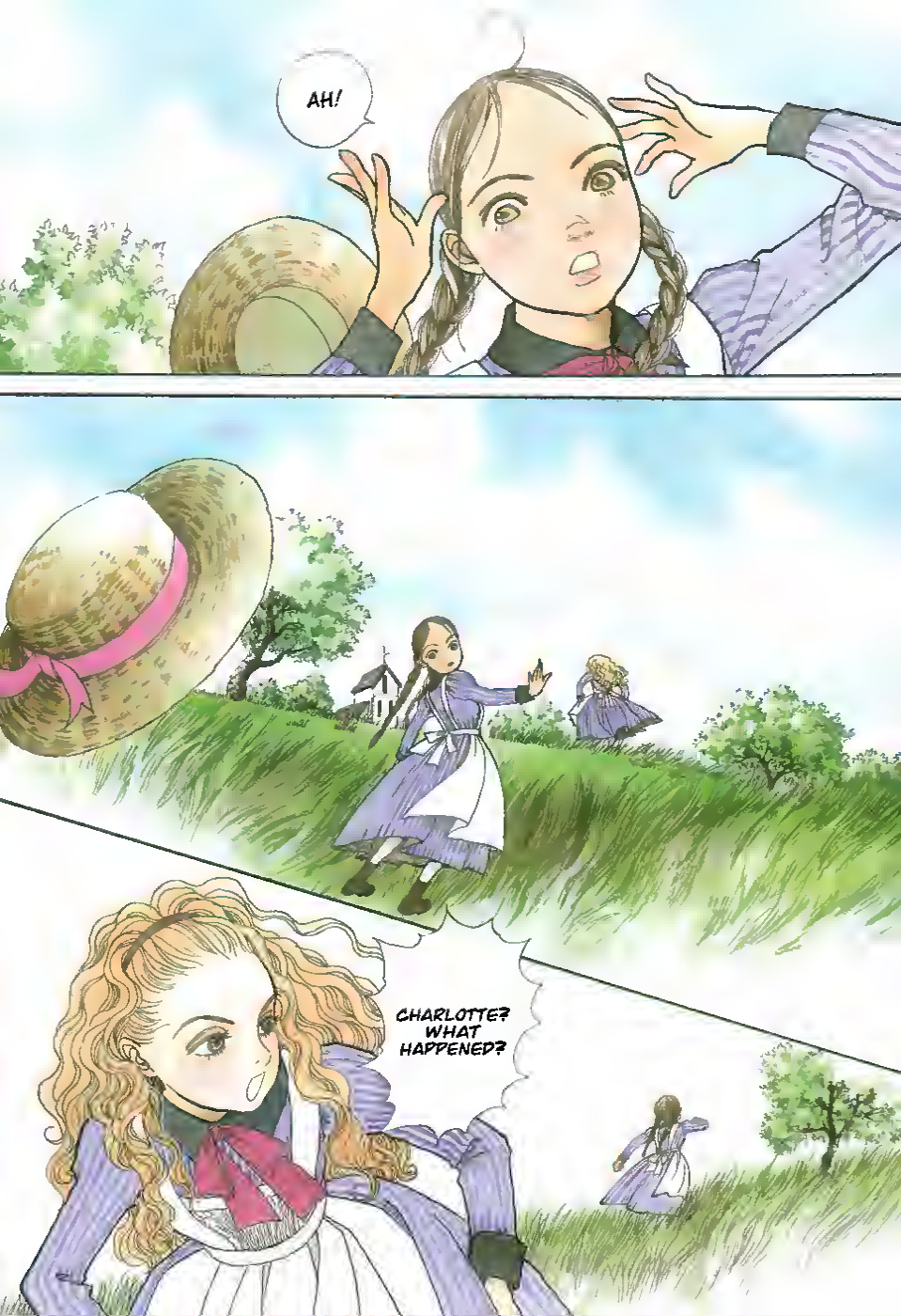
SFX FLAP

Paper: Kibu Industries family feud
Little brother comes out on top

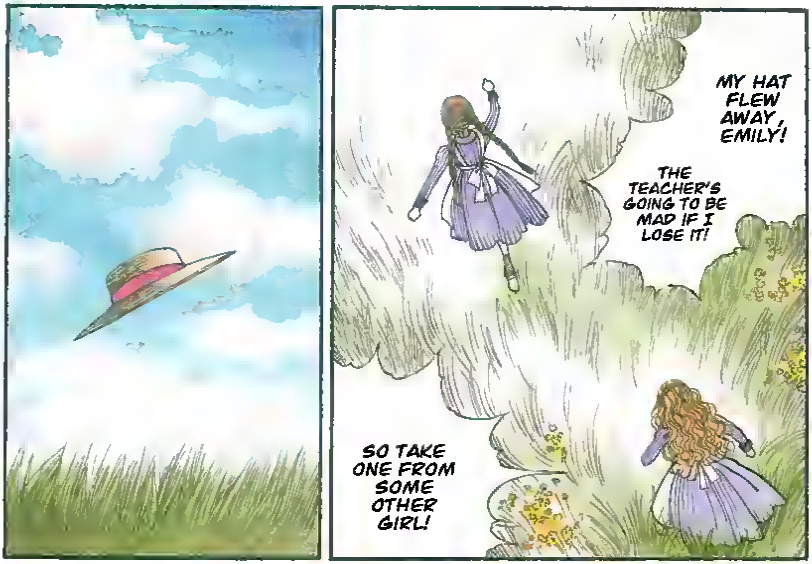
YES, I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT TOO.
カ
ばっ
SFX STARTLE

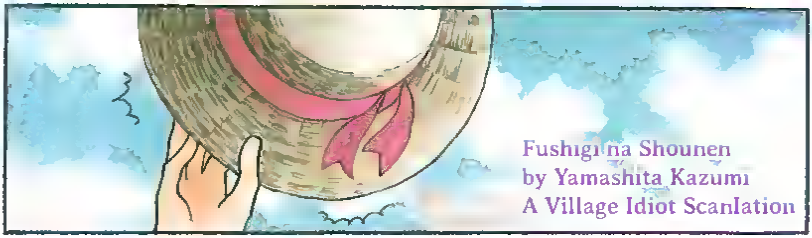


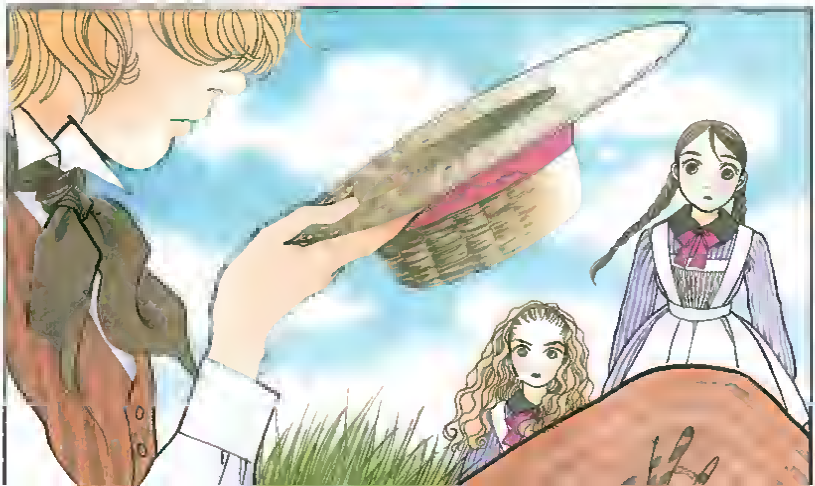
[Chapter 2]
Emily and Charlotte

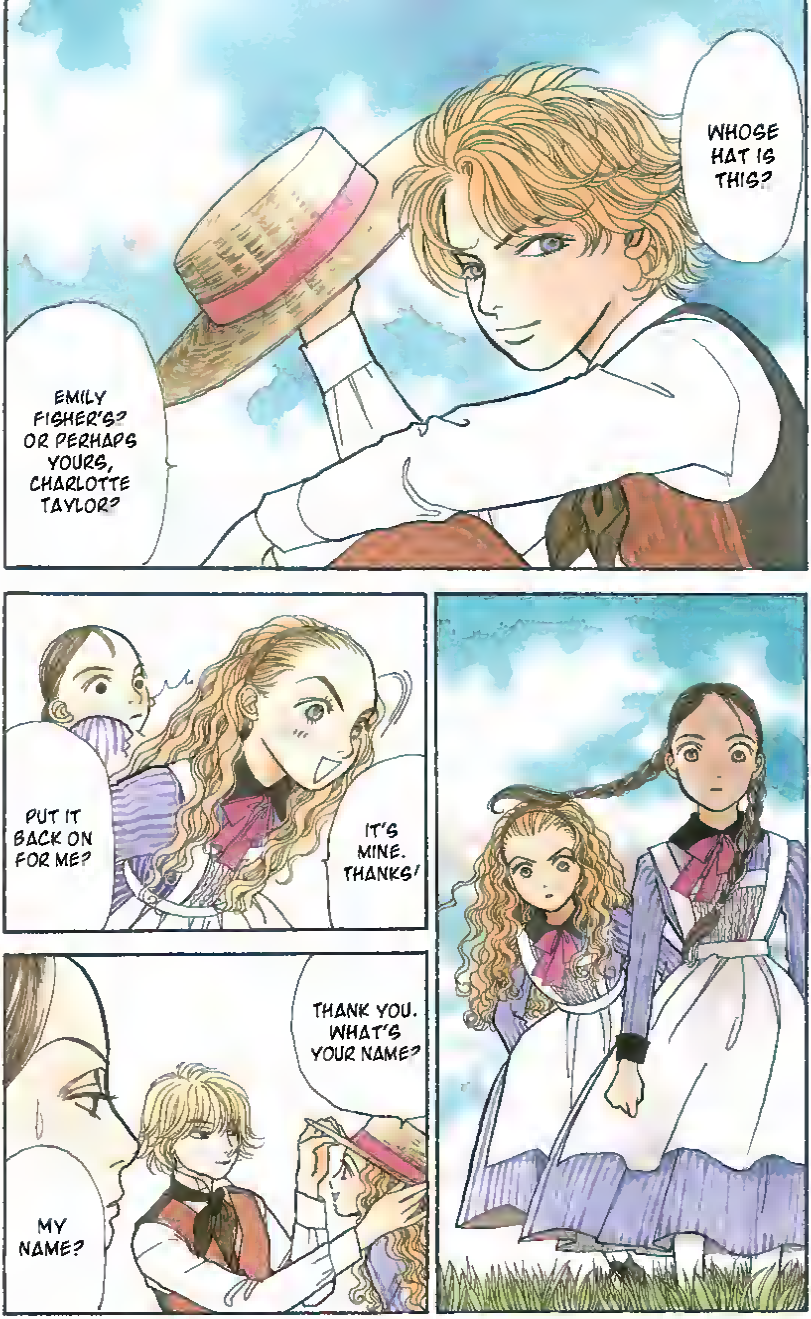

AH!
CHARLOTTE? WHAT HAPPENED?

Translation: Himeyasha + Taylor | Proof: Blueberry
Clean: Fenrill | Typeset: Seyrine | QC: Edward

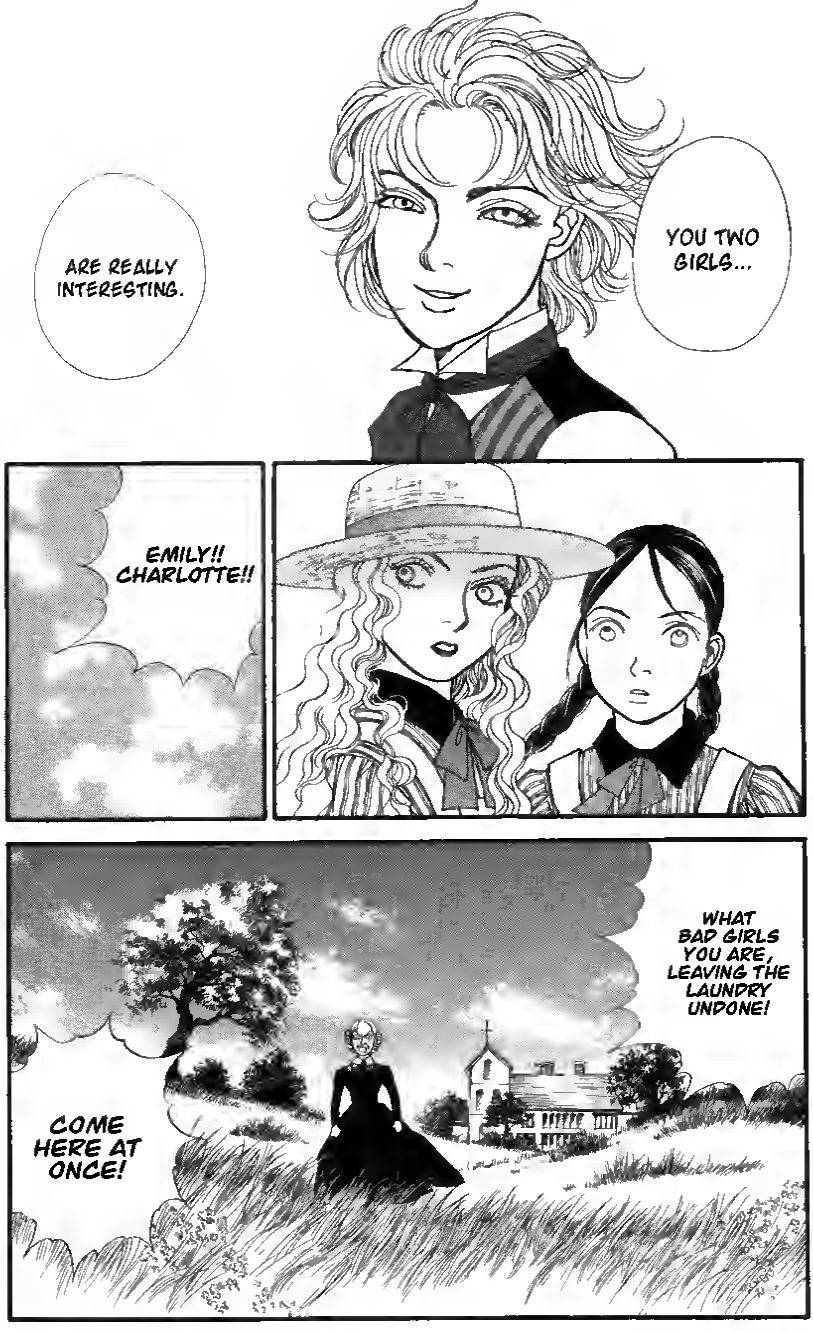






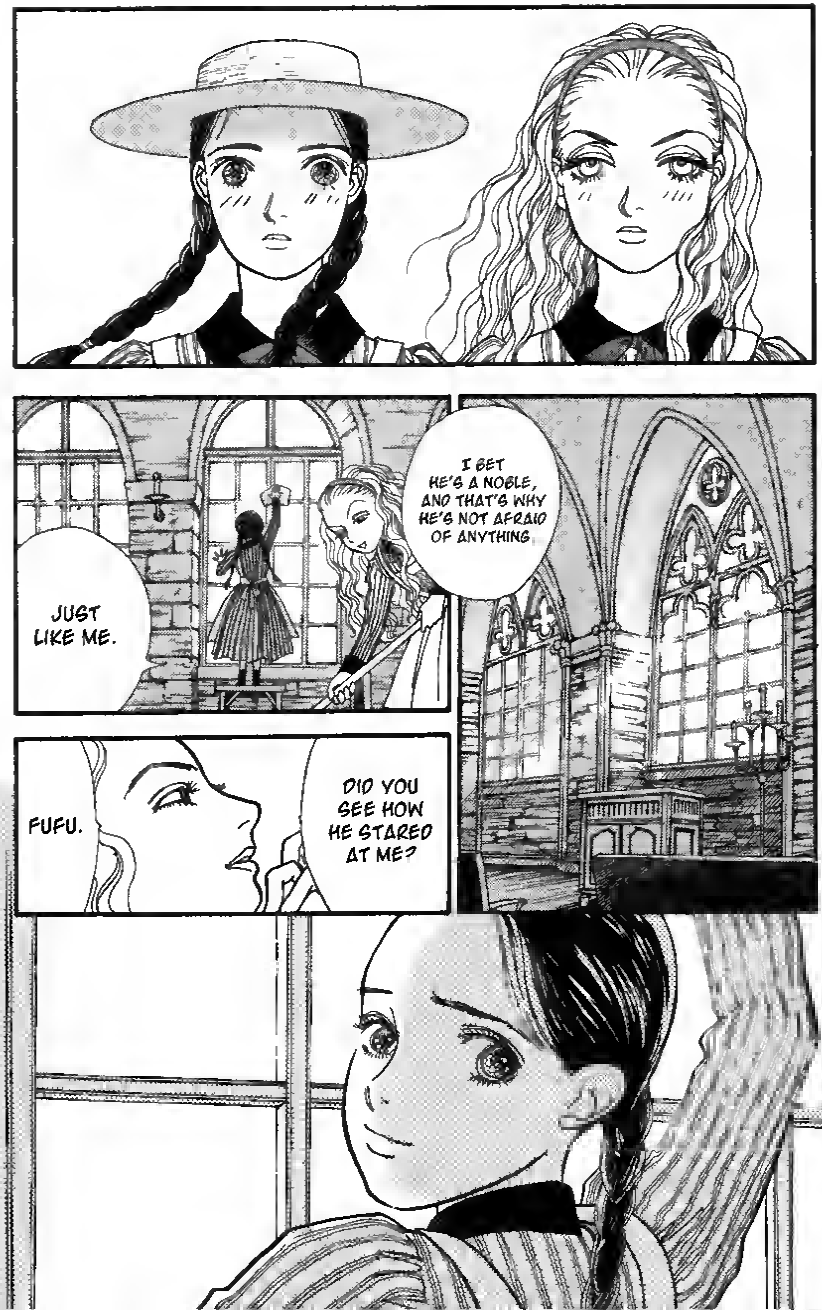

WHOSE HAT IS THIS?
EMILY FISHER'S? OR PERHAPS YOURS, CHARLOTTE TAYLOR?
PUT IT BACK ON FOR ME?
IT'S MINE. THANKS!
THANK YOU. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MY NAME?

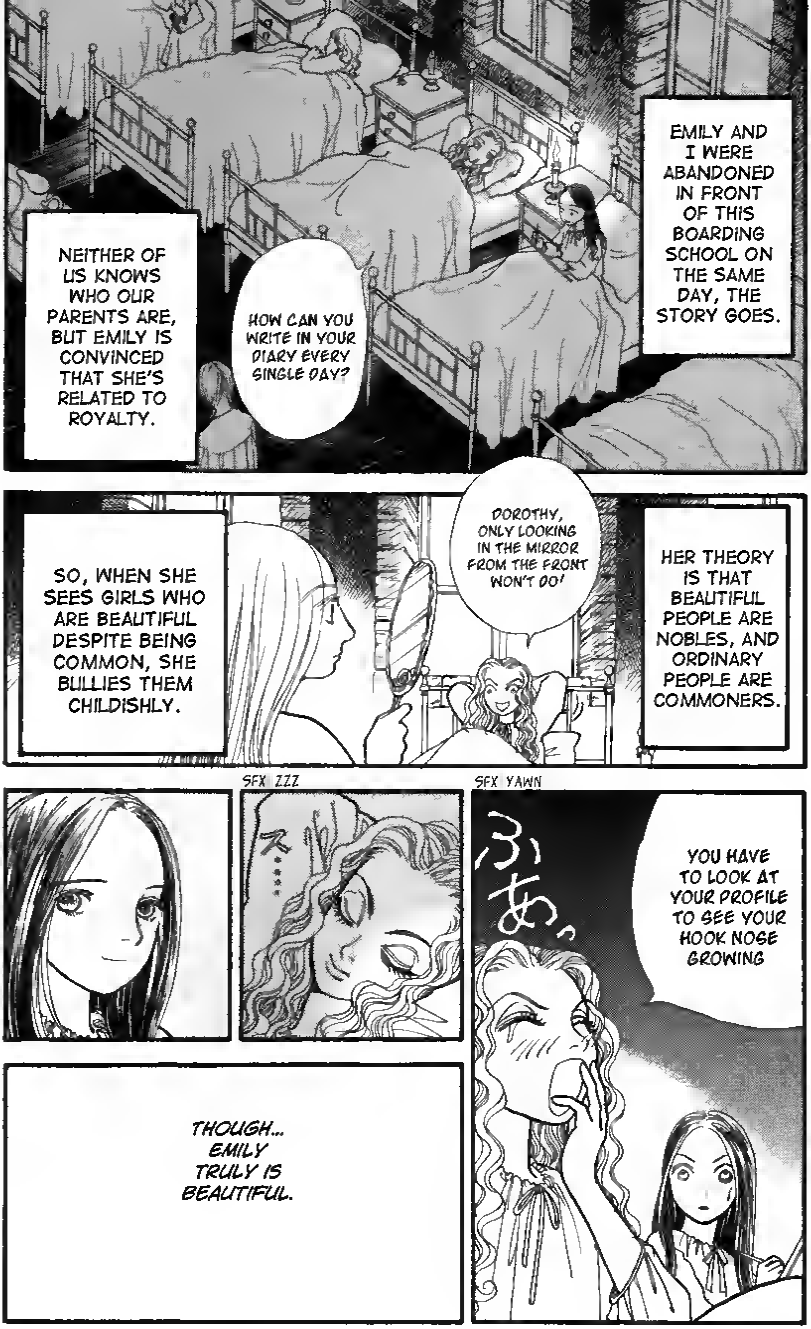
EDWARD
OUCH!
IF HE KNOWS ME, HE HAS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU, TOO. I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN BEST FRIENDS FOR 14 YEARS.
THEN WHY DOES HE KNOW MINE TOO, AND EVEN MY LAST NAME?
OH MY, THAT'S OBVIOUSLY BECAUSE HE'S INTERESTED IN ME.
EMILY, STOP AND THINK FOR A MINUTE! WHY DOES THIS BOY KNOW OUR NAMES?
STOP IT!

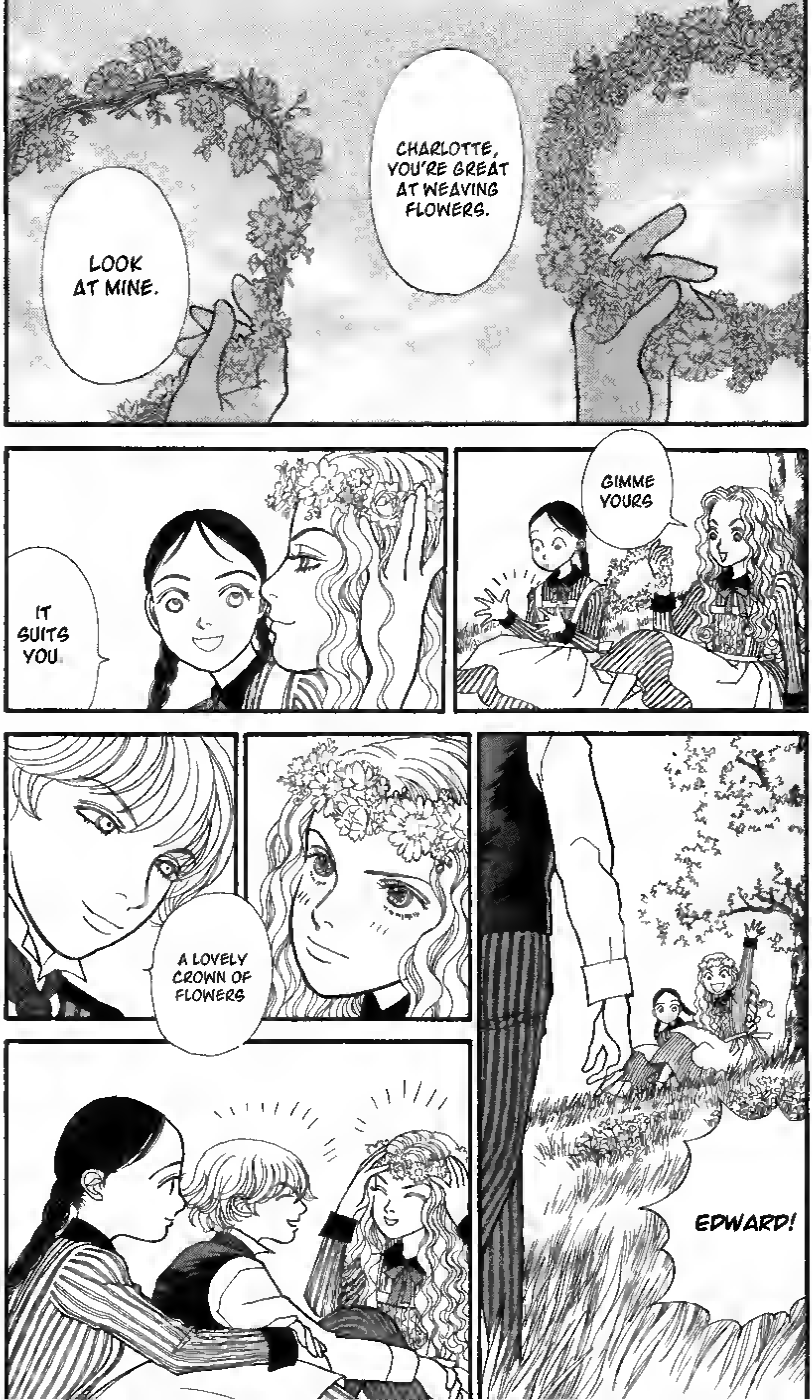

YOU TWO GIRLS...
ARE REALLY INTERESTING.
EMILY!! CHARLOTTE!!
WHAT BAD GIRLS YOU ARE, LEAVING THE LAUNDRY UNDONE!
COME HERE AT ONCE!

A GIRL THAT MAKES EXCUSES IS A BAD GIRL
GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU IF YOU BETRAY HIM
EMILY!!
I'M SOOORRRY, PRINCIPAL. CHARLOTTE'S HAT FLEW OFF SO WE WERE LOOKING FOR IT.
YOU'D'VE BEEN MORE MAD IF SHE LOST HER HAT, RIGHT?
TODAY, I ORDER YOU TO CLEAN THE CHAPEL IN THE NAME OF GOD
OTHERWISE, YOU WILL NOT GO TO HEAVEN
YOU WHO ARE LIVING OFF THE GOODWILL OF OTHERS MUST SERVE GOD MORE THAN EVERYONE ELSE
I BET THAT'S A MUCH BIGGER CRIME IN GOD'S EYES!
AS IF GOD CARES ABOUT THAT!
AREN'T YOU JUST MAKING UP EXCUSES TO MAKE THE STUDENTS WORK, INSTEAD OF HIRING SOMEONE?
WHAT ARE YOU-
PUHAHA!

UMM... THANK YOU... MY HAT...
WHO ARE YOU CALLING ODD?
HUH?
SFX PINCH
SEE YOU AGAIN, MAYBE...
HAHA, YOU'RE WELCOME
EMILY! ARE YOU TWO FRATERNIZING WITH THIS ODD BOY?
AHHH... WHY DO HUMANS MAKE UP SUCH SILLY THEORIES TO JUSTIFY THEIR OWN GREED?


I BET HE'S A NOBLE, AND THAT'S WHY HE'S NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
JUST LIKE ME.
DID YOU SEE HOW HE STARED AT ME?
FUFU.


EMILY AND I WERE ABANDONED IN FRONT OF THIS BOARDING SCHOOL ON THE SAME DAY, THE STORY GOES.
HOW CAN YOU WRITE IN YOUR DIARY EVERY SINGLE DAY?
NEITHER OF US KNOWS WHO OUR PARENTS ARE, BUT EMILY IS CONVINCED THAT SHE'S RELATED TO ROYALTY.
HER THEORY IS THAT BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE ARE NOBLES, AND ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE COMMONERS.
DOROTHY, ONLY LOOKING IN THE MIRROR FROM THE FRONT WON'T DO!
SO, WHEN SHE SEES GIRLS WHO ARE BEAUTIFUL DESPITE BEING COMMON, SHE BULLIES THEM CHILDISHLY.
SFX ZZZ
SFX YAWN
ふあ、
YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT YOUR PROFILE TO SEE YOUR HOOK NOSE GROWING
THOUGH... EMILY TRULY IS BEAUTIFUL.


CHARLOTTE, YOU'RE GREAT AT WEAVING FLOWERS.
LOOK AT MINE.
GIMME YOURS
IT SUITS YOU.
A LOVELY CROWN OF FLOWERS
EDWARD!

THE WAY A PERSON LIVES IS DECIDED FROM THE MOMENT THEY'RE BORN.
AND I AM ME...
EMILY IS EMILY,
THAT'S WHY I FOLLOW AND OBSERVE EVERYTHING SHE DOES...
THAT'S ALL I WANT...
THAT'S ALL I CAN DO...
YOU'RE WRONG. HUMANS CAN CHANGE
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BET ON THIS CROWN?

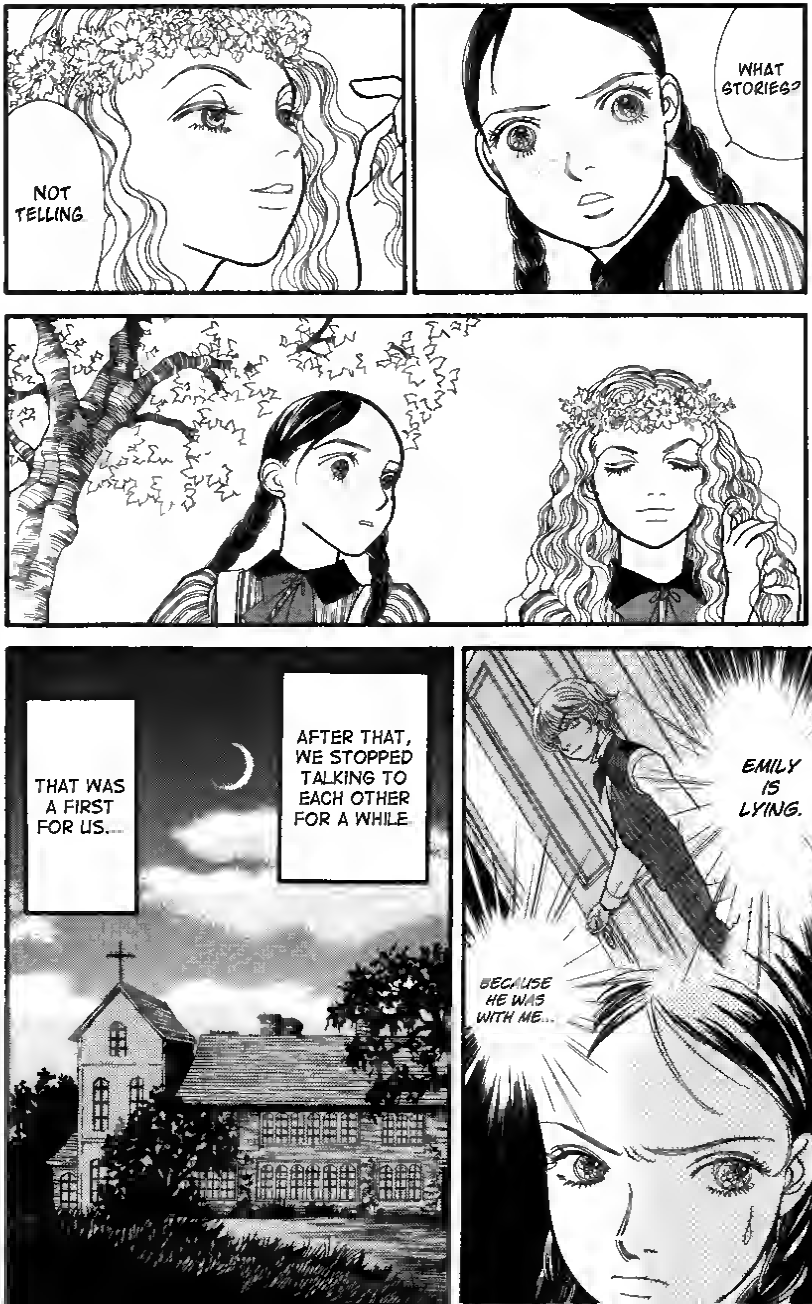
BUT I...
BEFORE I CLOSED MY EYES, I COULD SEE EMILY GLARING AT ME.
CLOSED THEM
HERE WE GO.

はっ
SFX GASP
はっ
SFX RUSTLE

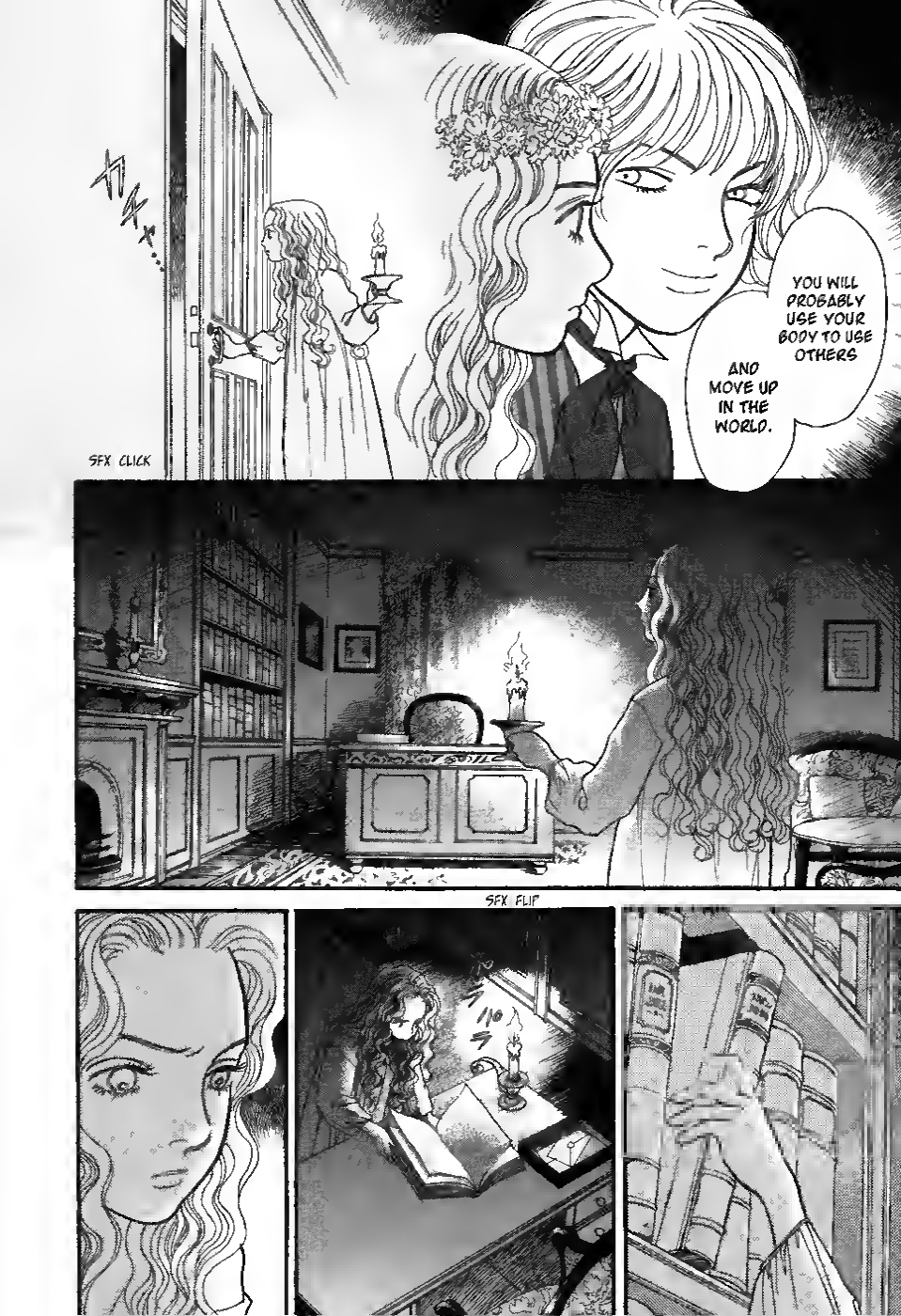
DO YOU SEEK US?
THE HEROINES OF ANCIENT HISTORY...!!
MANY, MANY WONDERFUL STORIES STILL REMAIN UNTOLD.

YOU ONLY KNOW ONE ASPECT OF YOUR OWN HEART.
YOU HAVE MUCH MORE INSIDE YOU THAN YOU KNOW.
IF YOU CAN RELEASE THOSE THINGS, YOU MAY BECOME THE STUFF OF DREAMS FOR PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.
THAT'S WHY I OPENED THE DOOR FOR YOU, JUST A LITTLE

I WAS SO SURPRISED! YOU SUDDENLY FELL OVER! I THOUGHT YOU DIED!
はっ
SFX: GASP
BUT JUST THE TWO OF US NEXT TIME... FUFU
WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP, HE TOLD ME WONDERFUL STORIES... HE SAID HE LOVED ME, AND WANTED TO MEET ME AGAIN...
HE WENT HOME.
WHERE'S EDWARD?

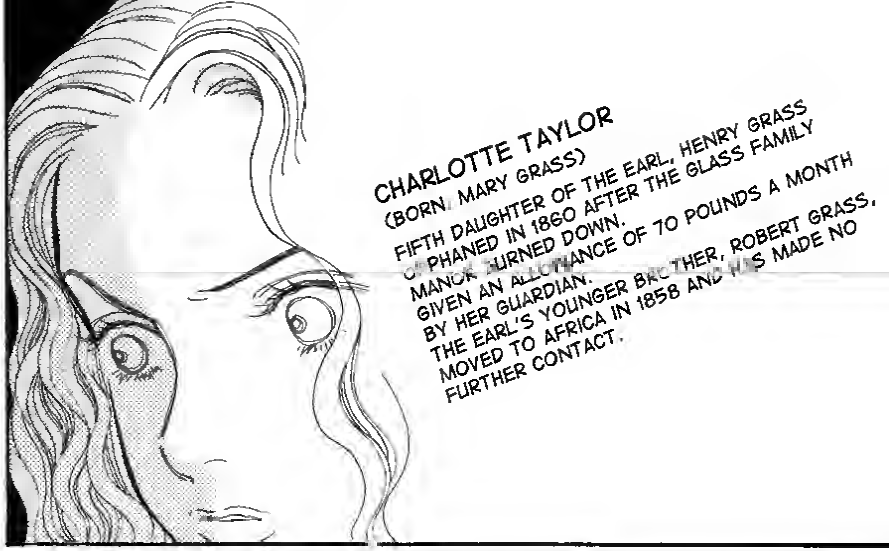

NOT TELLING
WHAT STORIES?
THAT WAS A FIRST FOR US...
AFTER THAT, WE STOPPED TALKING TO EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE
EMILY IS LYING.
BECAUSE HE WAS WITH ME...

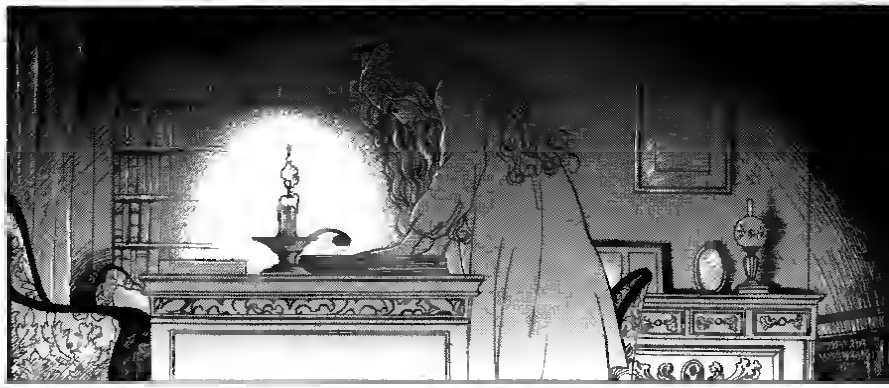
BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU'RE TELLING YOURSELF. YOU SHOULD HAVE A LOOK IN THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU LOOK LIKE ONE.
YOU'RE A NOBLE?
OUR ANCESTORS ALL STARTED FROM NOTHING. THEY WERE UPRIGHT PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO STOLE FROM OTHERS, AND TALENTED PEOPLE, BUT THEY ALL HAD THEIR OWN STRENGTHS.
NOBLES SIMPLY LIVE OFF OF AN INHERITANCE
YOU NEED TO OPEN DOORS FOR YOURSELF.

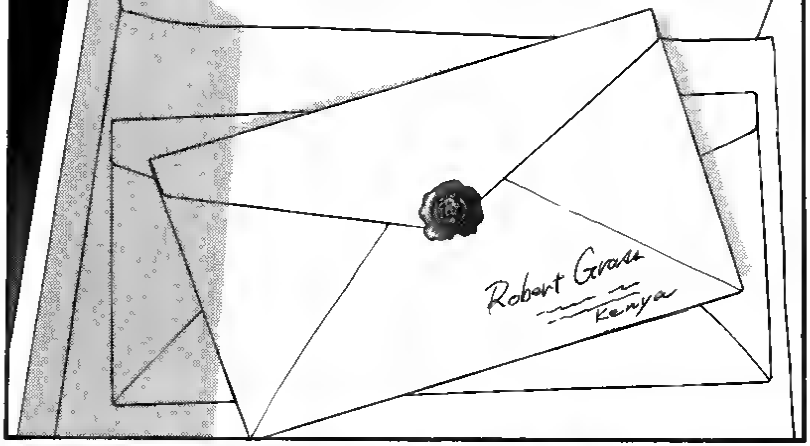

YOU WILL PROBABLY USE YOUR BODY TO USE OTHERS AND MOVE UP IN THE WORLD.
SFX CLICK
SFX FLIP

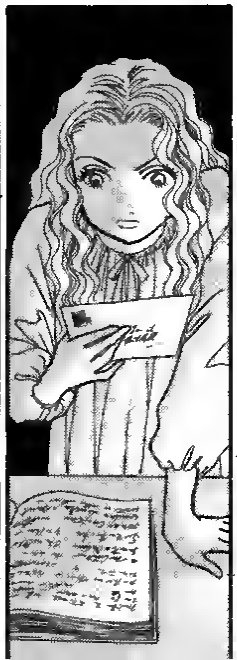
EMILY FISHER

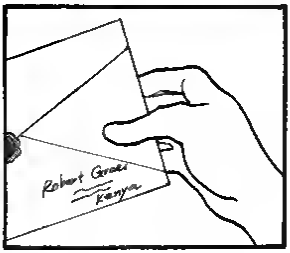
BIRTH—UNKNOWN.
6 FEBRUARY 1860,
ABANDONED AT THE SCHOOL GATES.

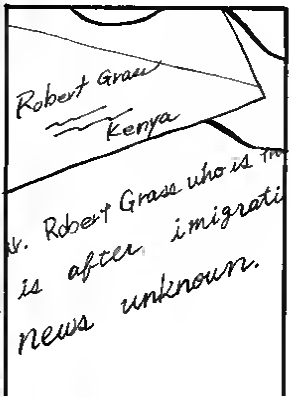

CHARLOTTE TAYLOR
(BORN MARY GRASS)
FIFTH DAUGHTER OF THE EARL, HENRY GRASS
ORPHANED IN 1860 AFTER THE GLASS FAMILY
MANOR BURNED DOWN.
GIVEN AN ALLOWANCE OF 70 POUNDS A MONTH
BY HER GUARDIAN,
THE EARL'S YOUNGER BROTHER, ROBERT GRASS,
MOVED TO AFRICA IN 1858 AND HAS MADE NO
FURTHER CONTACT.

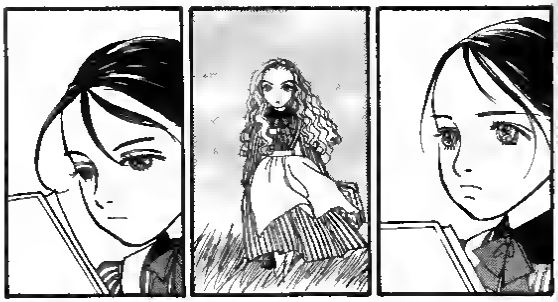


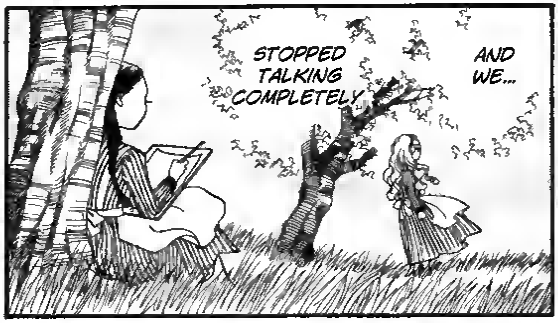

Robert Grass
Kenya




Robert Grass
Kenya


Robert Grass
Kenya
r. Robert Grass who is
is after imigrati
news unknown.

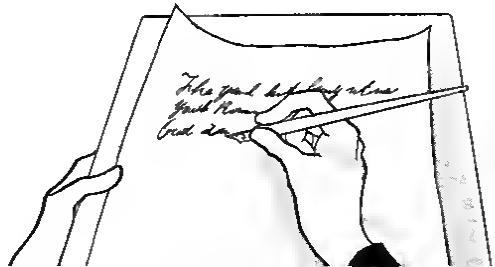




I WROTE MY FIRST STORY.

AND MADE MY IMAGINATION TAKE FLIGHT.

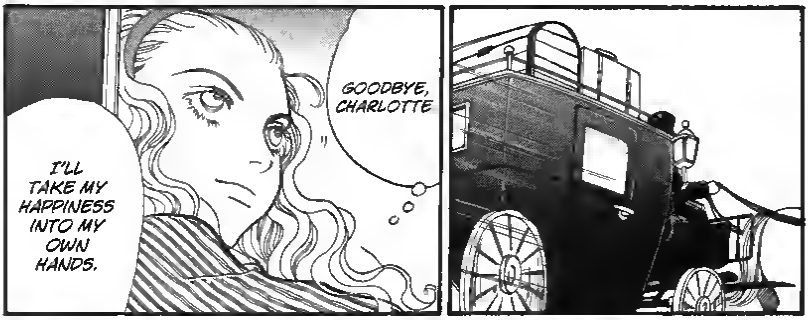
MY FEELINGS TOWARD EMILY BOILED WITHIN ME

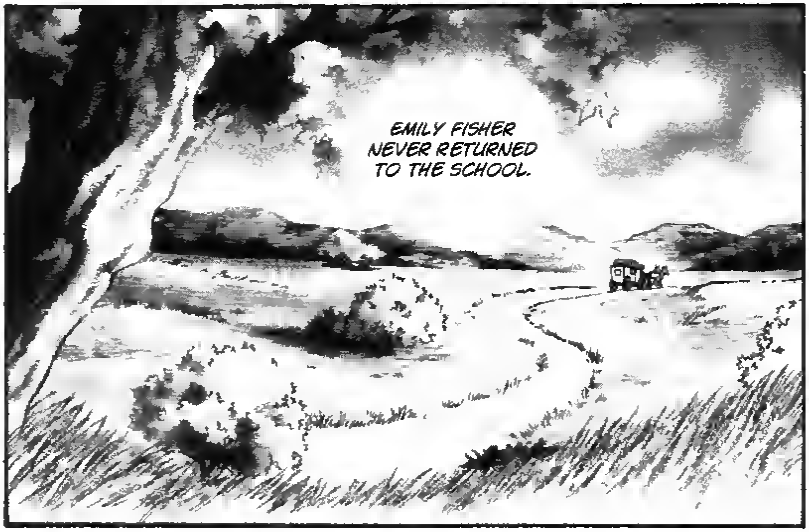


HE'S HERE!

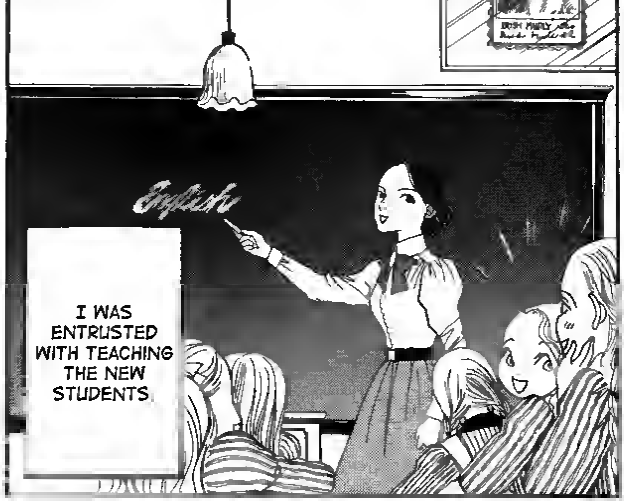
WAIT!
ARE YOU LORD GRASS?
I...
I'M... MARY GRASS.
WHAT OF IT?
YES, I AM.

STOP THE CARRI-AGE!
SFX: CLONK
I AM ROBERT GRASS.
I'VE FINALLY RETURNED FROM AFRICA.
FOR NOW, LET'S RETURN TO THE SCHOOL SO I CAN GREET THE PRINCIPAL.
I HATE THIS PLACE! I WON'T GO BACK!
IF I STAY HERE I'LL DIE, SO TAKE ME AWAY NOW!

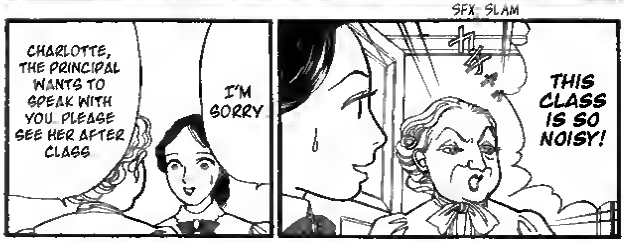

GOODBYE, CHARLOTTE
I'LL TAKE MY HAPPINESS INTO MY OWN HANDS.

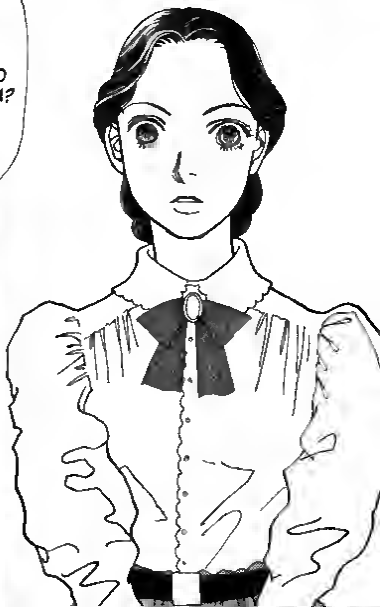

EMILY FISHER NEVER RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL.

SHE WILL SUFFER GOD'S WRATH, REGARDLESS
REGARD-LESS...
THAT'S ENOUGH GOSSIP ABOUT EMILY!
ALL KINDS OF RUMORS RAN AMOK.
BUT I DIDN'T FEEL IT NECESSARY TO TELL ANYONE WHAT I SAW THAT DAY.
THIS NONSENSE AGAIN.
I HEARD HE'S A NOBLE
IS IT TRUE SHE ELOPED WITH A GOLDEN-HAIRED BOY?
BUT FRANKLY, I'M GLAD SHE'S NOT AROUND ANYMORE.
SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE HERE.
SO I'M ALL RIGHT.
I HAVE MY IMAGINA-TION,



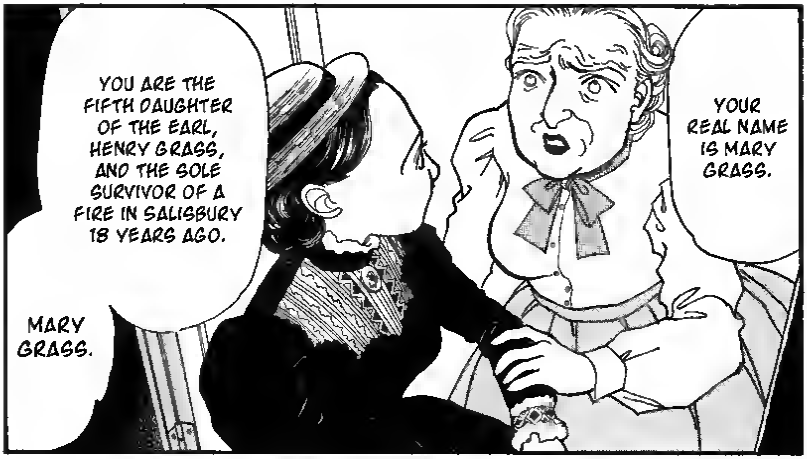
AND THEN, FIVE YEARS PASSED.





THIS IS A GREAT HONOR FOR OUR SCHOOL, AND A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU
WILL YOU GO?
YES!

GOOD-BYE, MY PRISON.
WHAT'S WRONG, MRS ANDERSON?
IF I DON'T TELL YOU NOW...
CHAR-LOTTE, WAIT!
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU!
ABOUT WHAT?
I MIGHT NEVER GET THE CHANCE...
ABOUT...
WHO YOU REALLY ARE


YOU ARE THE FIFTH DAUGHTER OF THE EARL, HENRY GRASS, AND THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF A FIRE IN SALISBURY 18 YEARS AGO.
MARY GRASS.
YOUR REAL NAME IS MARY GRASS.

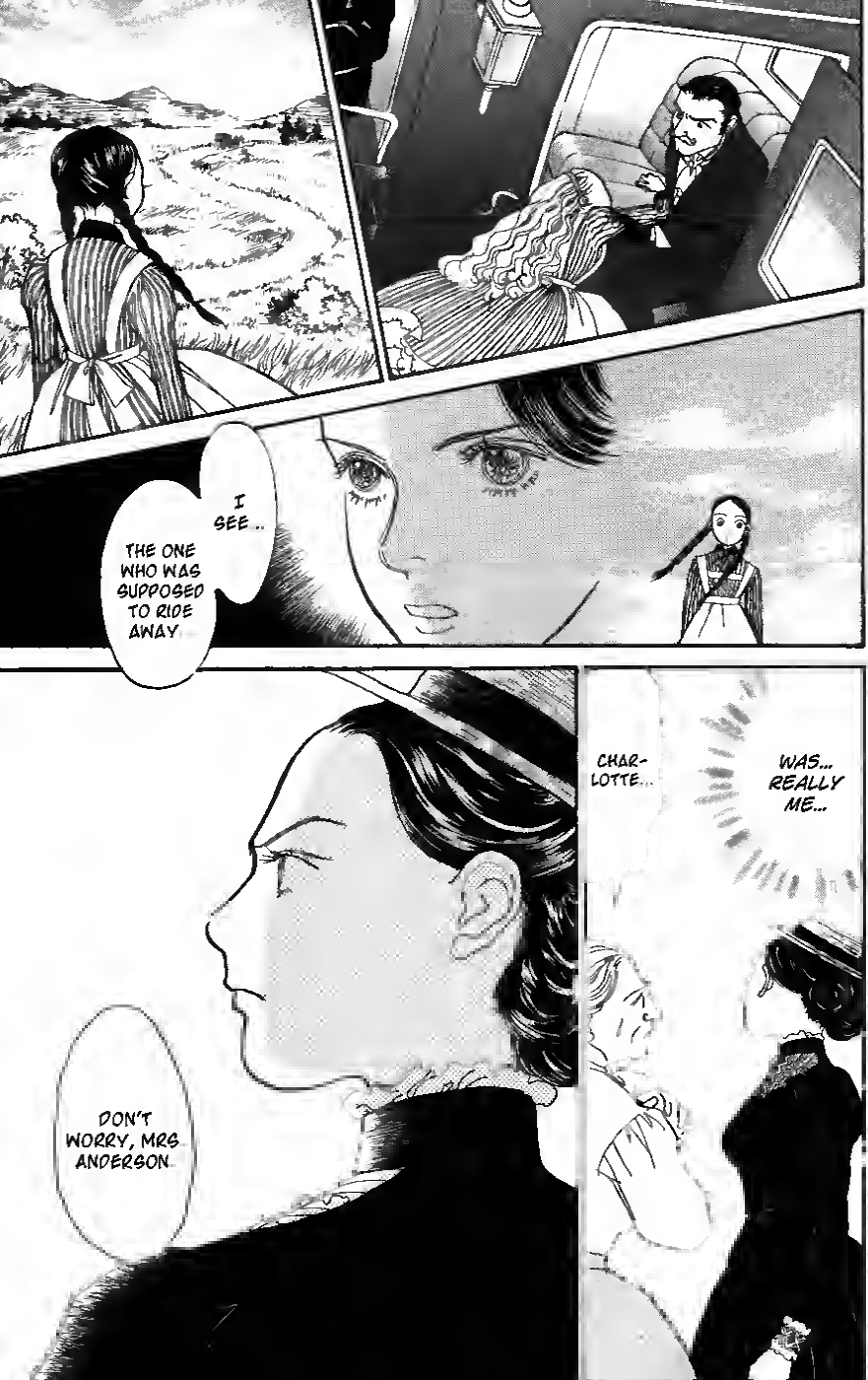
BUT... THE PRINCIPAL TOOK IT AND INVESTED IT IN STOCK, SO I COULDN'T TELL YOU THE TRUTH
THE ESTATE MANAGER SENT 840 POUNDS FOR YOU EVERY YEAR.

WAIT! THERE'S MORE!
THERE'S A WOMAN CALLING HERSELF MARY GRASS!

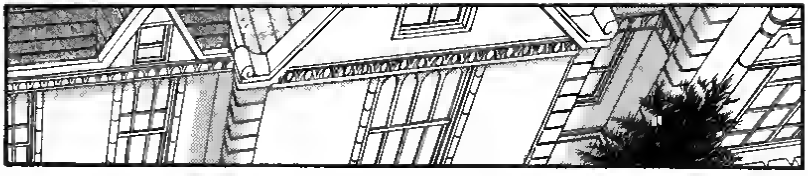
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ME.

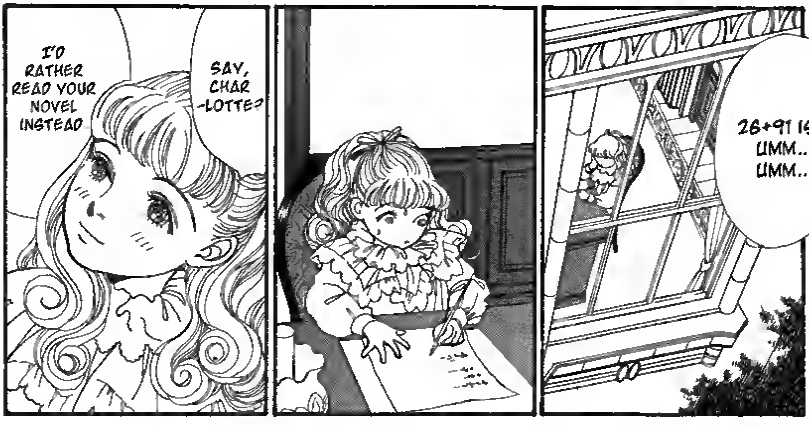
BUT IF I DIDN'T TELL YOU NOW, I'D HAVE NIGHT-MARES.
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO HELL LIKE THAT HAG
I'M TURNING IN MY RESIGNATION SOON... YOU CAN SUE IF YOU LIKE.

MARY GRASS...
HE SAID YOU WENT TO LIVE IN AMERICA WITH YOUR SOLE SURVIVING RELATIVE
FOUR YEARS AGO, THE ESTATE MANAGER STOPPED SENDING YOUR ALLOWANCE
HOWEVER, THAT RELATIVE DIED OF AN ILLNESS SOON AFTER THEY ARRIVED
AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE HEIR TO TEN THOUSAND POUNDS
MARY.
BUT... THE PRINCIPAL COULDN'T SAY THAT YOU WERE STILL HERE,
BECAUSE THAT WOULD REVEAL HER THEFT.
I...
I AM MARY GRASS!


I SEE...
THE ONE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO RIDE AWAY...
DON'T WORRY, MRS. ANDERSON.
CHAR-LOTTE...
WAS... REALLY ME...

I HAVE...
MANY THINGS I WANT TO DO...




I'D RATHER READ YOUR NOVEL INSTEAD
SAY, CHAR-LOTTE?
26+91 IS... UMM... UMM...

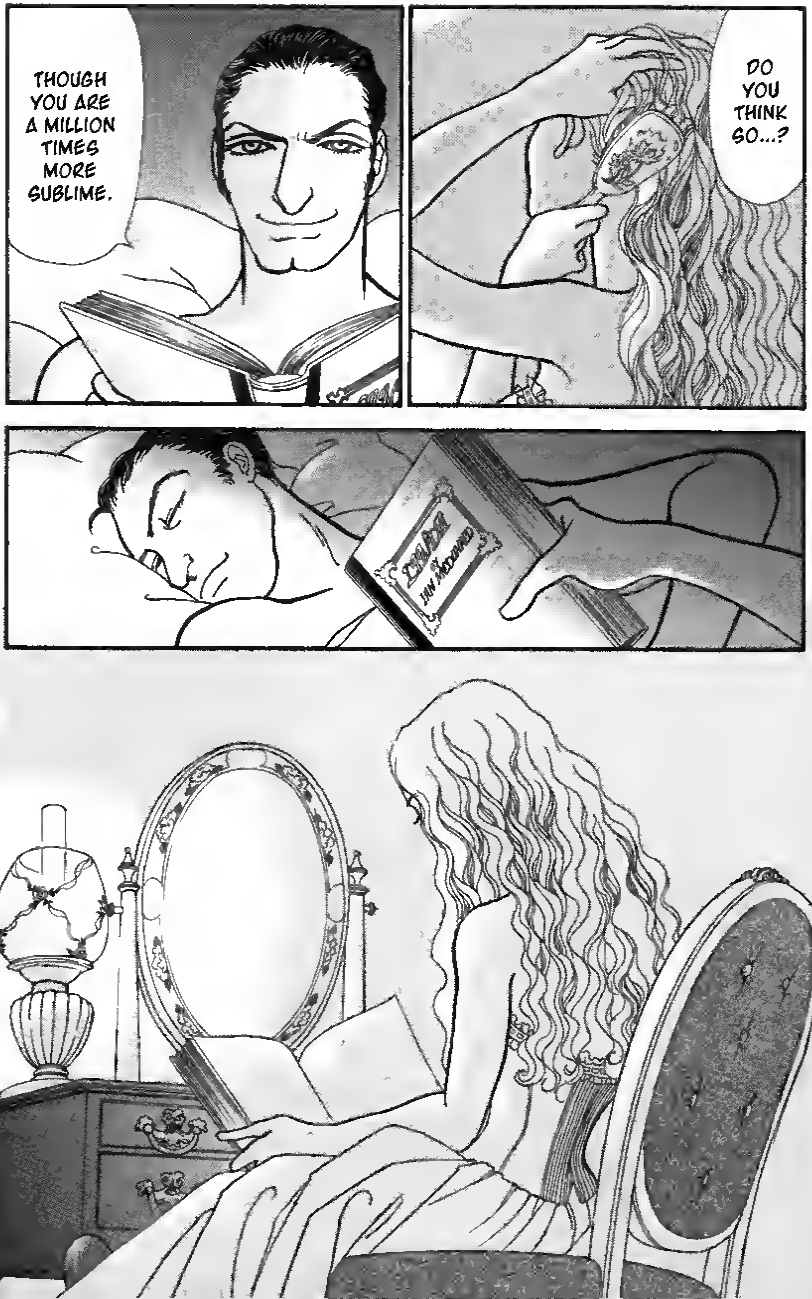
MATH IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT.
YOU USE IT WHEN YOU COOK, WHEN YOU SHOP, EVEN WHEN YOU KNIT.
THAT'S
NOT FOR CHILDREN.
WILL YOU COME DOWN FOR SOME TEA, CHARLOTTE?
REALLY
THANK YOU, MRS. MCDONALD.
OH MY, SUCH COMPLIMENTS FROM YOU MAKE ME VERY HAPPY.
MARGARET IS AN EXTREMELY PROMISING YOUNG LADY, PARTICULARLY HER WRITING SKILLS.
WE'VE DEALT WITH CORSETS FOR SO MANY YEARS NOW THAT I'M SURE OUR POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS LIKE THE OCEAN. THAT'S HOW I WANT TO RAISE MARGARET.
I BELIEVE THAT WOMEN NEED TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD.

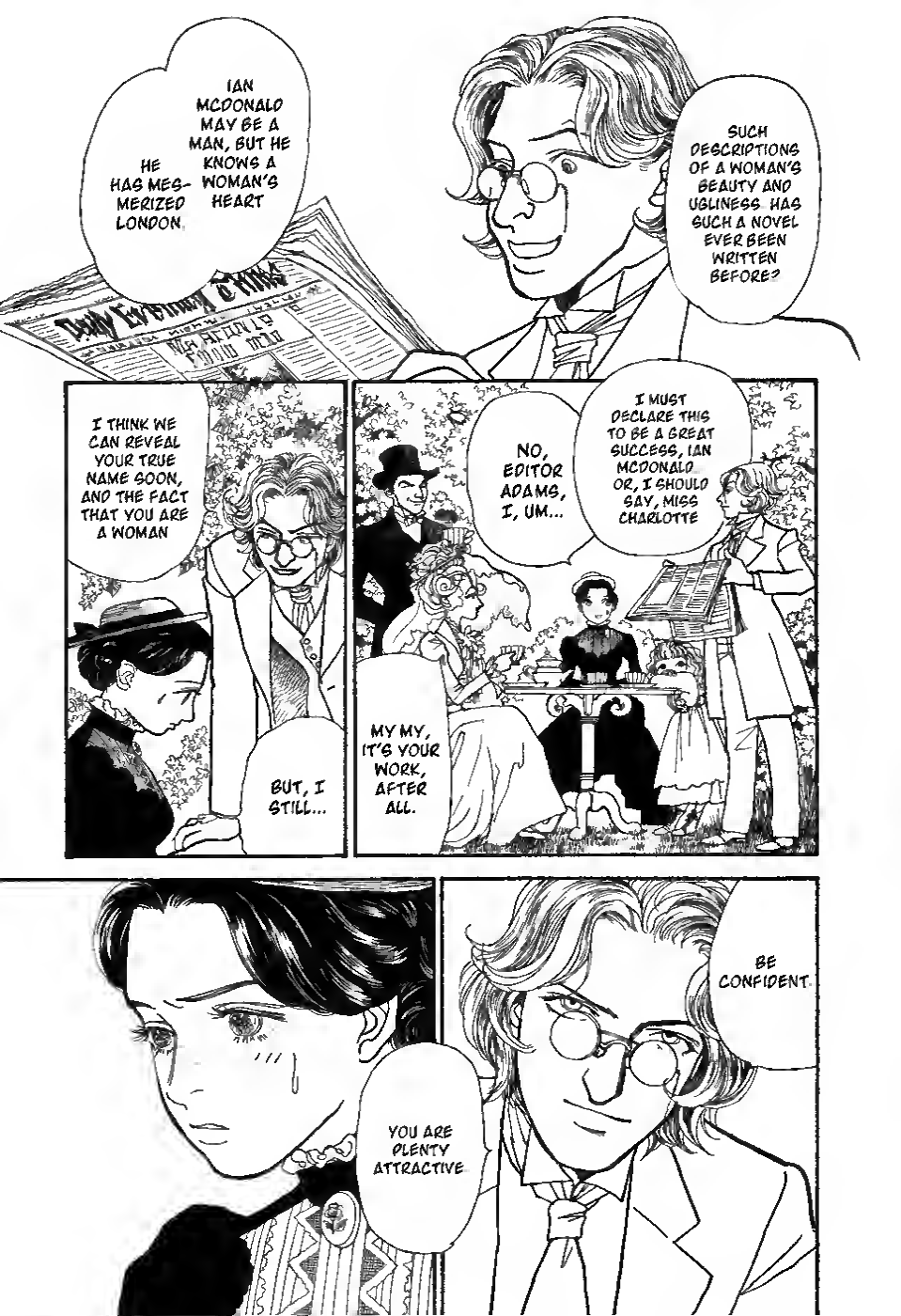
CHARLOTTE.
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO PUBLISHES BOOKS... WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUBLISH YOUR NOVEL?
YOUR HEROINES ARE FULL OF LIFE AND SPIRIT
I'M SURE THEY'LL ATTRACT NOT ONLY WOMEN, BUT MEN AS WELL
MORE.
I'M AMAZED THAT A GENTLE GIRL LIKE YOU CAN WRITE SUCH A FIERCE AND CRUEL STORY..
MORE.
MORE.

IN AN ERA WHERE FEMALE AUTHORS WERE YET SCARCE,
I PUBLISHED MY NOVEL UNDER A PEN NAME, IAN MCDONALD.
LINDA
BY
IAN MCDONALD
NOW ON SALE
MY BOOK BECAME THE TALK OF LONDON AND BEYOND.

HMMM.

THIS BOOK YOU'RE READING.. "LINDA," WAS IT? THE HEROINE..
REMINDS ME OF YOU, MARY.

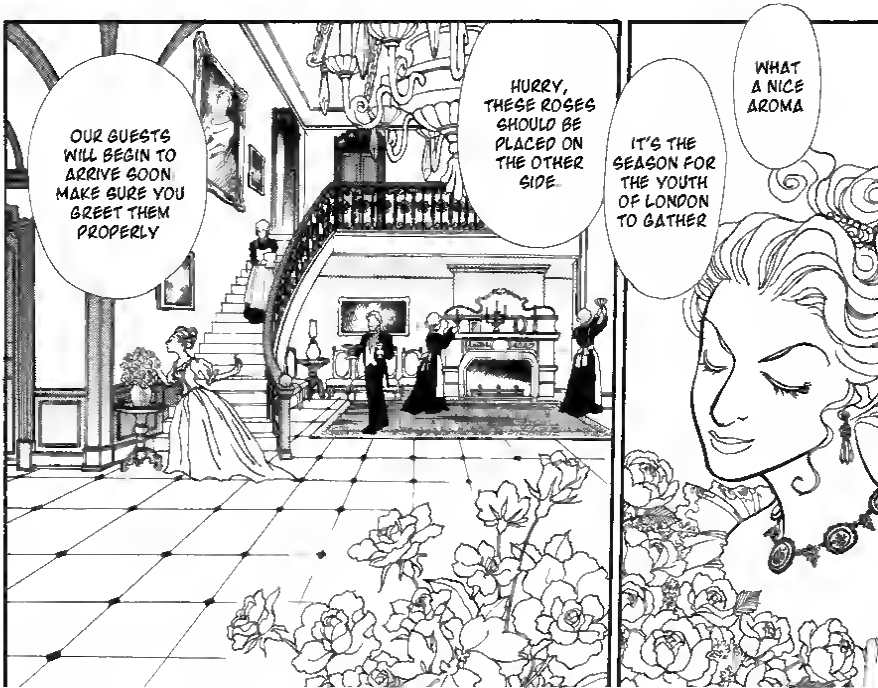

THOUGH YOU ARE A MILLION TIMES MORE SUBLIME.
DO YOU THINK SO...?

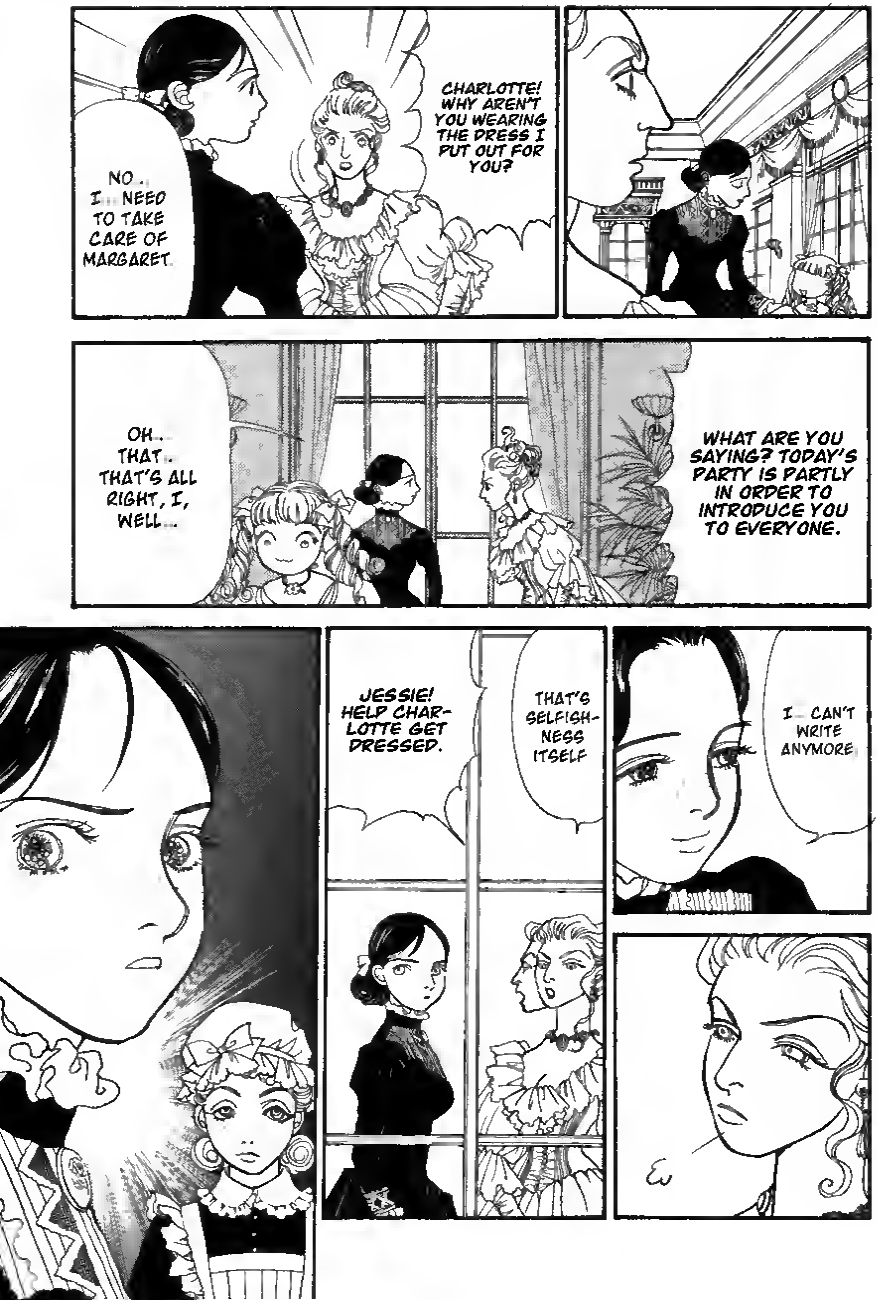

IAN MCDONALD MAY BE A MAN, BUT HE KNOWS A WOMAN'S HEART
HE HAS MESMERIZED LONDON
SUCH DESCRIPTIONS OF A WOMAN'S BEAUTY AND UGLINESS HAS SUCH A NOVEL EVER BEEN WRITTEN BEFORE?
I THINK WE CAN REVEAL YOUR TRUE NAME SOON, AND THE FACT THAT YOU ARE A WOMAN
BUT, I STILL...
NO, EDITOR ADAMS, I, UM...
I MUST DECLARE THIS TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS, IAN MCDONALD OR, I SHOULD SAY, MISS CHARLOTTE
MY MY, IT'S YOUR WORK, AFTER ALL.
YOU ARE PLENTY ATTRACTIVE
BE CONFIDENT.

WHY?
BUT... WHY... CAN'T I WRITE NOW?
I USED TO BE ABLE TO WRITE AS QUICKLY AS I COULD READ, BUT
COULD IT BE...
BECAUSE OF THAT BOOK...!?

SFX: CLATTER
EVERYTHING I'VE WRITTEN UNTIL NOW..
WAS ABOUT EMILY.

THE MORE THAT DOOR OPENS, THE MORE MY STORIES WILL FLOW, BUT... I'M AFRAID TO OPEN IT ANY FURTHER...!
EDWARD... WHEN YOU OPENED THAT DOOR FOR ME,
YOU ALSO RELEASED THE FEELINGS I HAD TOWARD EMILY.


OUR GUESTS WILL BEGIN TO ARRIVE SOON MAKE SURE YOU GREET THEM PROPERLY
HURRY, THESE ROSES SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE OTHER SIDE
IT'S THE SEASON FOR THE YOUTH OF LONDON TO GATHER
WHAT A NICE AROMA


CHARLOTTE! WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING THE DRESS I PUT OUT FOR YOU?
NO. I... NEED TO TAKE CARE OF MARGARET.
OH.. THAT.. THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I, WELL...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? TODAY'S PARTY IS PARTLY IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE YOU TO EVERYONE.
JESSIE! HELP CHARLOTTE GET DRESSED.
THAT'S SELFISHNESS ITSELF
I... CAN'T WRITE ANYMORE

EMILY.
EMILY?
NO, THAT'S THE FAMOUS LADY, MARY GRAGG. ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL?
OH MY, HER ESCORT TODAY IS SIR WILDE. HE'S A FEW RANKS HIGHER THAN THE LAST ONE

BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT HER
AND SHE'S ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A MAN OF HIGHER RANK, SO THEY CALL HER A "NATURAL PROSTITUTE" EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A LADY
THERE ARE RUMORS SHE KILLED HER ONLY RELATIVE SO SHE COULD GET THE INHERITANCE
HELP ME GET READY.
CHARLOTTE

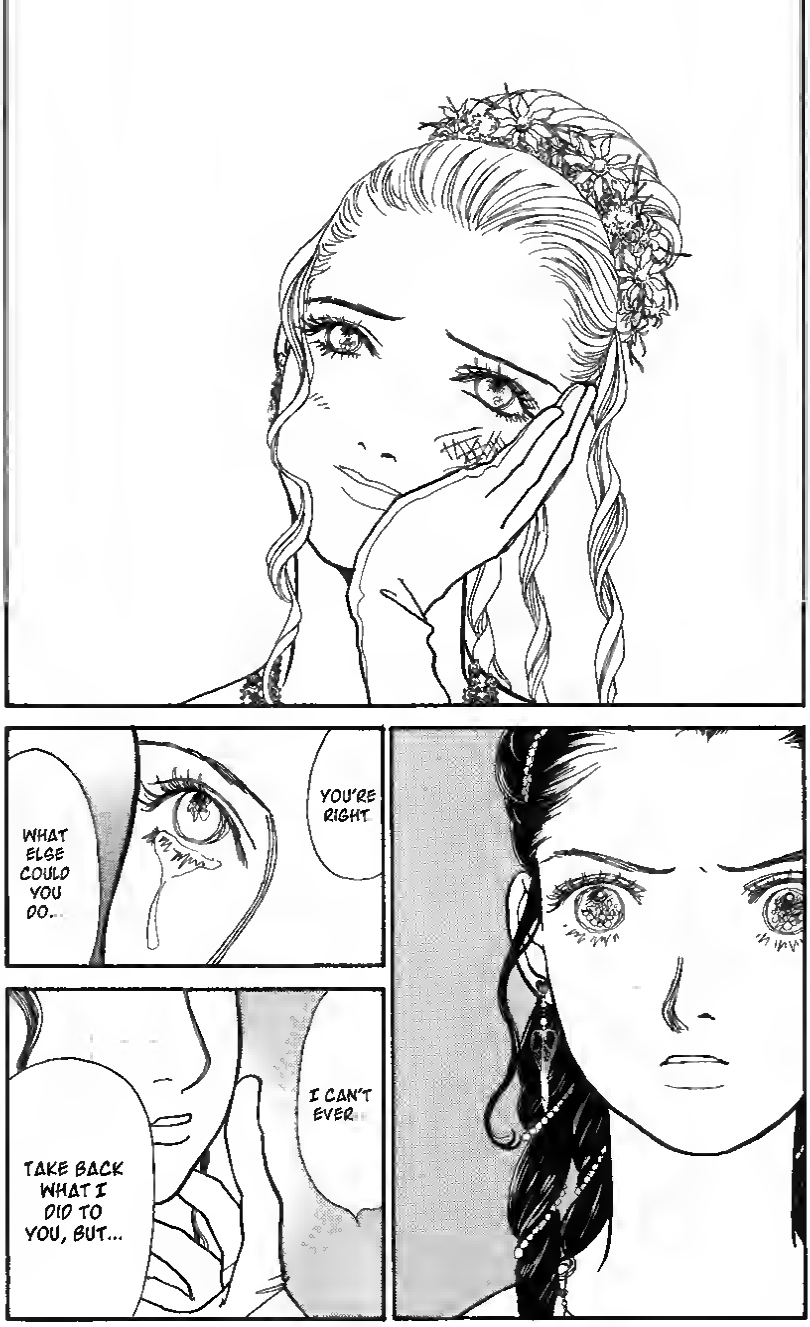
WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
CHARLOTTE? MARY? IAN, PERHAPS?
YOU...
OR DO YOU WANT TO GIVE HER A TASTE OF LIVING HELL?
DO YOU WANT TO KILL HER?

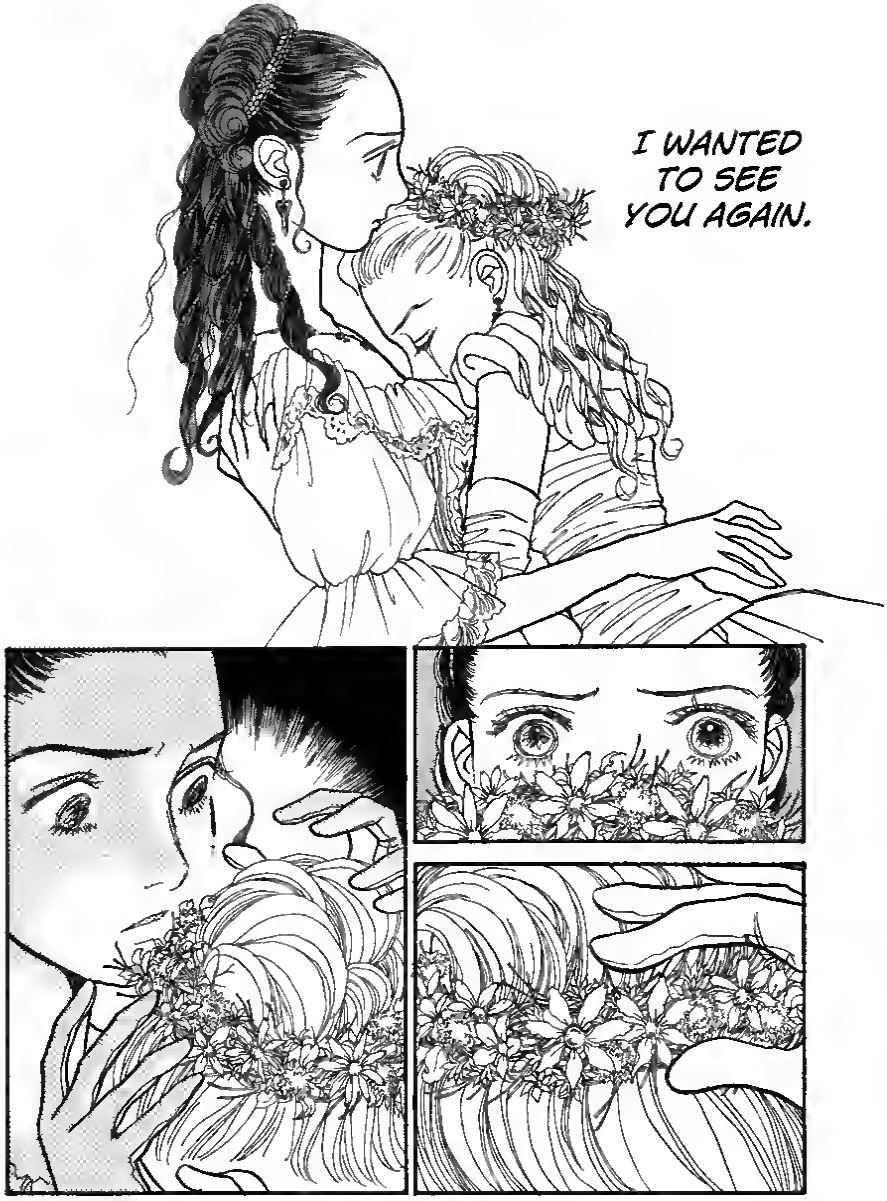
THE EMOTIONS THAT ARISE WHEN YOU OPEN THAT DOOR COMPLETELY MIGHT BE LIKE THAT
TO OPEN THE DOOR IS A TERRIFYING THING FOR A HUMAN
CAN YOU... OPEN THE DOOR?

LOST THIS BET...
I MAY HAVE

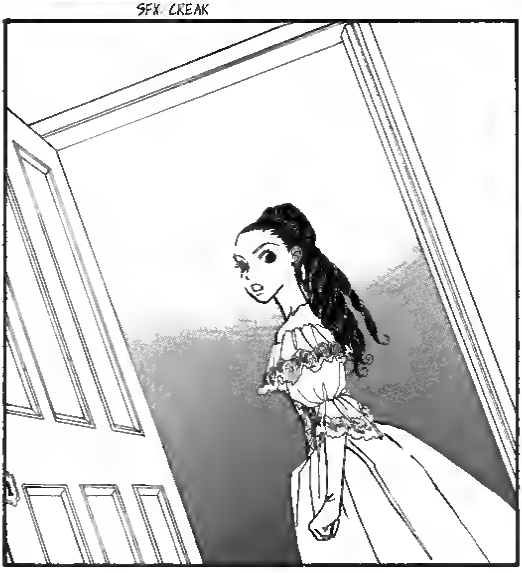
SFX. SLAP

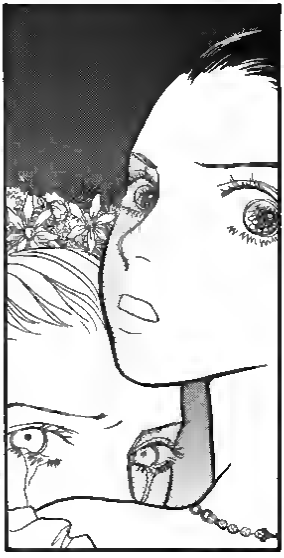
HEY, YOU.
SFX: STEP


YOU'RE RIGHT
WHAT ELSE COULD YOU DO...
I CAN'T EVER TAKE BACK WHAT I DID TO YOU, BUT...

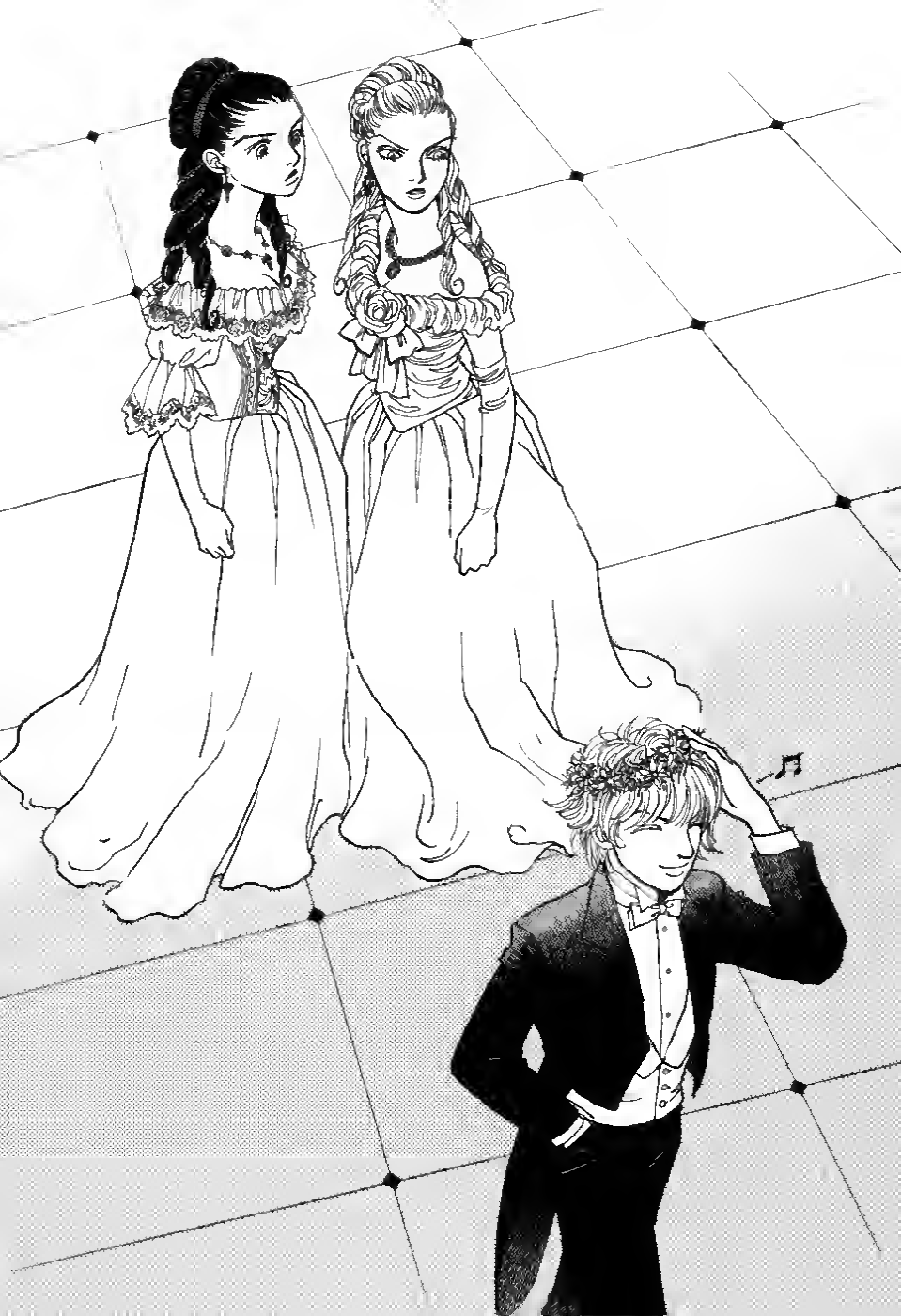

I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

SFX: CREAK



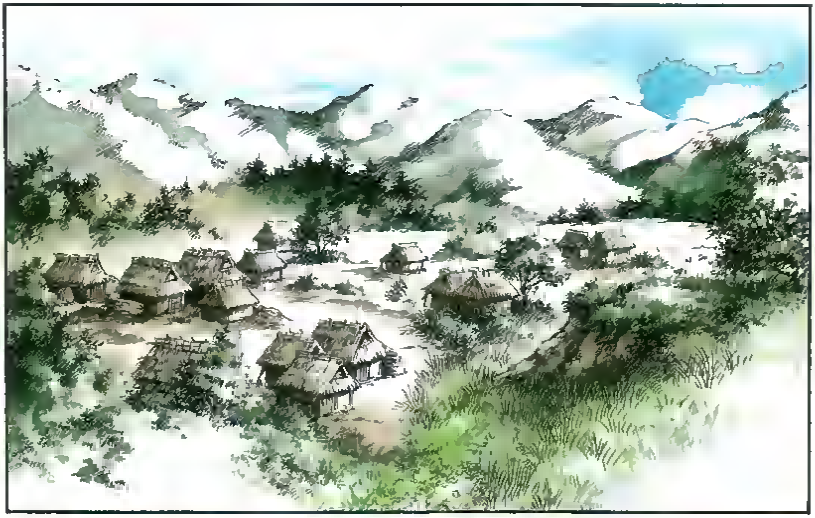


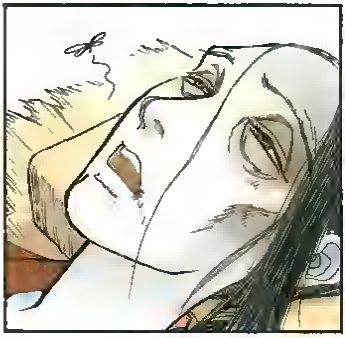
IT SEEMS I'VE WON THE BET.



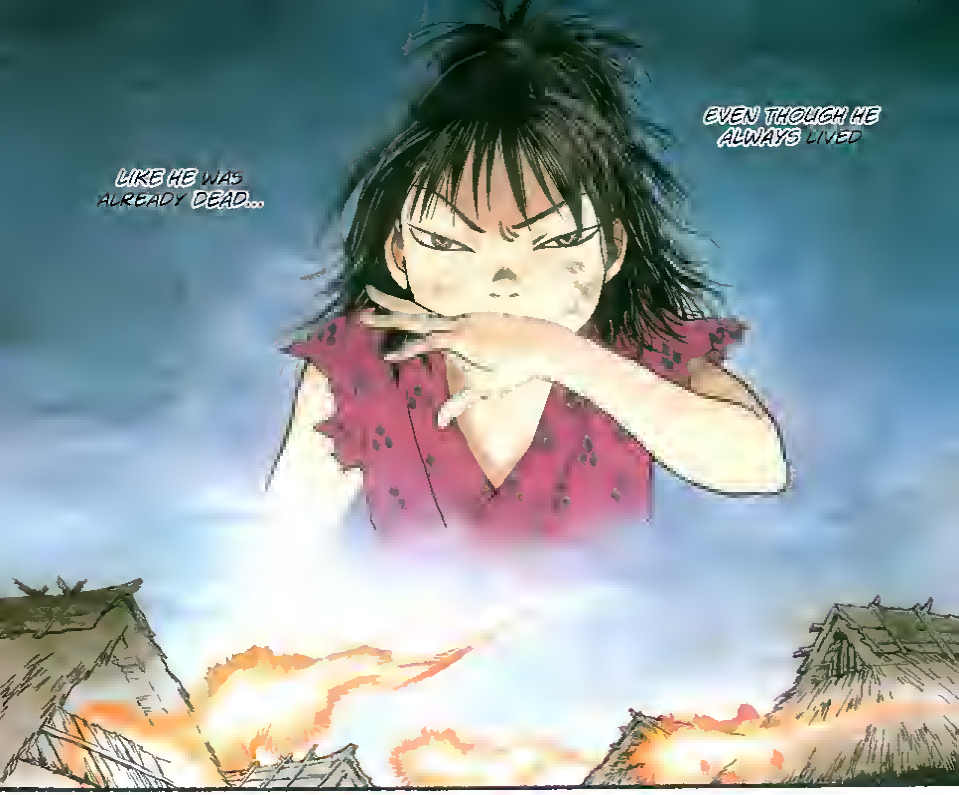
Chapter 3:
Fox-Eyed Torakichi

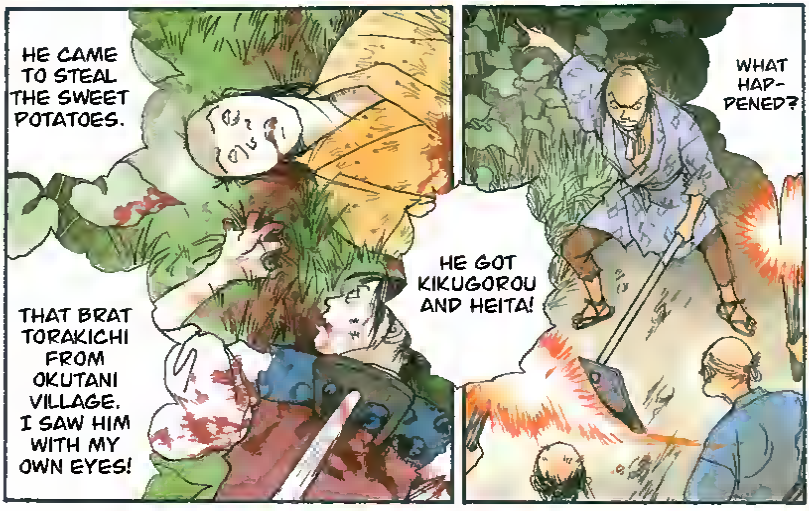
Translator: Taylor | Cleaner: Freyje | Proofreader: KelpTheGreat
Typesetter: Nanaseru | Quality Checkers: Blueberry, ZeroDC



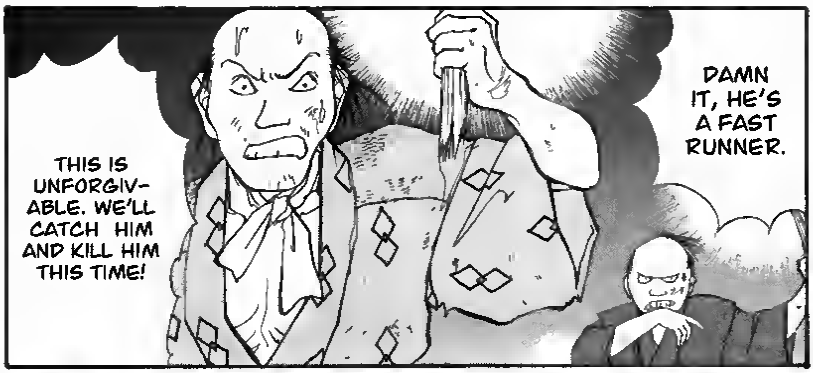


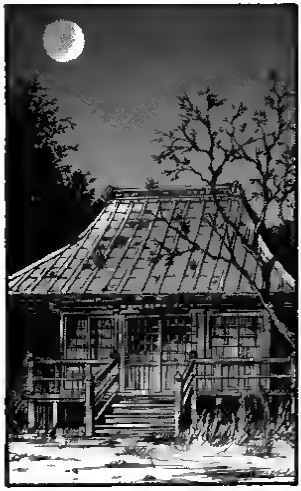
HE'S DEAD.
FINALLY...
SFX: GOBBLE GOBBLE
SFX: SNATCH


EVEN THOUGH HE ALWAYS LIVED
LIKE HE WAS ALREADY DEAD...


HE CAME TO STEAL THE SWEET POTATOES.
THAT BRAT TORAKICHI FROM OKUTANI VILLAGE. I SAW HIM WITH MY OWN EYES!
HE GOT KIKUGOROU AND HEITA!
WHAT HAP-PENED?

Kill him
Kill him
SFX: HAH, HAH, HAH
はあ
はあ
はあ
Catch him and kill him~
Kill him~





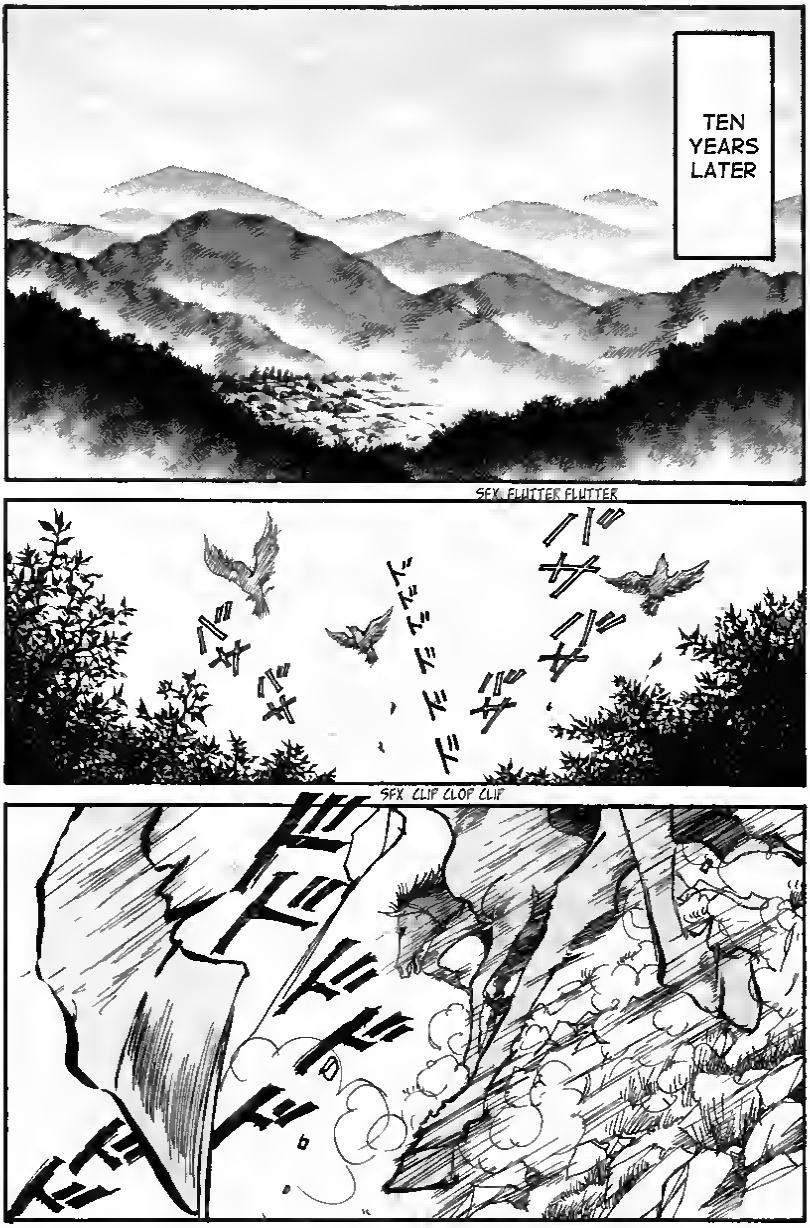
SFX HAA, HAA, HAA, HAA

SFX: GOBBLE

I SEE YOU'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO THAT BODHISATTVA STATUE
HOW OLD ARE YOU?

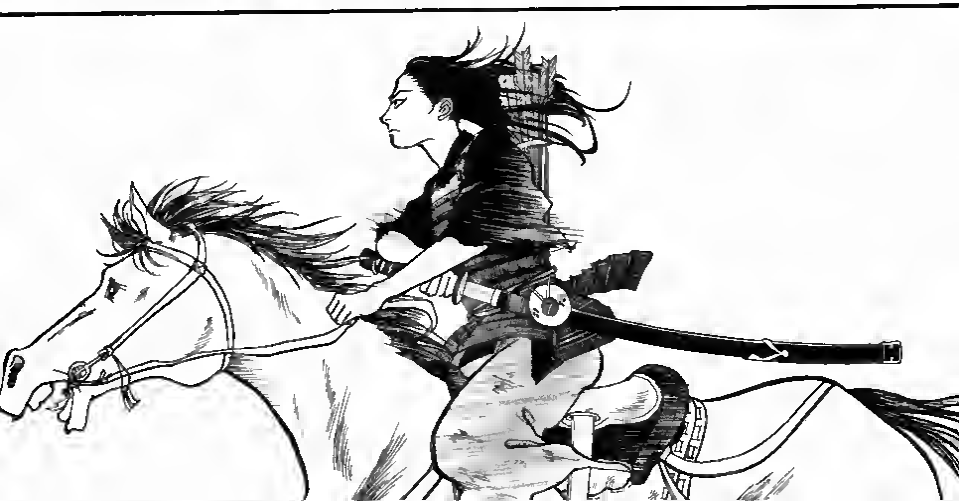
WHY IS IT THAT EVEN SOMEONE LIKE YOU CAN SEE THE BEAUTY IN THIS STATUE?
AND YOU'VE ALREADY COMMITTED MORE THAN A HUNDRED CRIMES, HAVEN'T YOU?
TWELVE
BECAUSE HE HAS LOOKED UPON HEAVEN.
WHY IS IT SO BEAUTIFUL?
YEAH.
THAT BOY WAS BURIED AS A HUMAN SACRIFICE AFTER THIS PLACE WAS STRUCK BY A GREAT FLOOD.
THAT STATUE WAS MODELED AFTER A CHILD WHO LIVED HERE HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO.

I AM CERTAIN THAT HE LOOKED UPON HEAVEN.
AND ALSO,
THAT HE NEVER STOPPED SMILING THIS MYSTERIOUS SMILE WHILE HE WAS BEING BURIED.
THE LEGEND SAYS THAT HIS SKIN WAS SO PALE, THE LIGHT SHONE THROUGH IT.
WHY DOES GOD BLESS YOU IF YOU BURY A CHILD?
WHY A CHILD?
IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU, EITHER. YOUR LIFE IS STILL GOOD FOR ONE THING
AND AFTER THAT, THIS LAND REMAINED BOUNTIFUL FOR YEARS AND YEARS.
SFX: WHACK
YOU ADULTS HAVE LIVED SO MUCH LONGER.


TEN YEARS LATER
SFX: FLUTTER FLUTTER
SFX: CLIP CLOP CLIP

SFX: CREAK
SFX: WHUD

ONCE THEY GET BEYOND THE RICE BARRELS, OUR NUMBERS MEAN VICTORY FOR SURE!
LISTEN UP, THE ENEMY IS A MERE 20 RIDERS.



FOX-EYES TORAKICHI IS CHARG-ING AHEAD!
IT'S TORAKICHI!

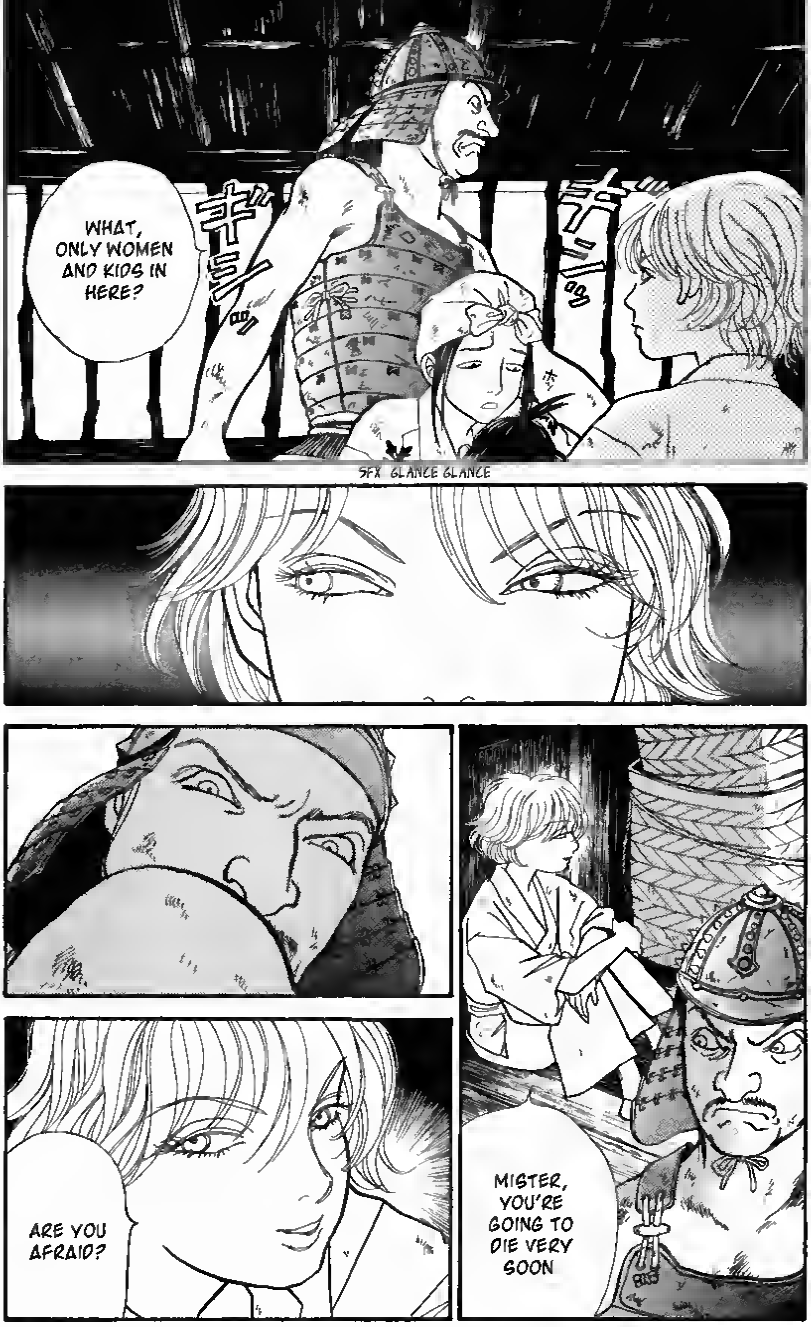
YES!!

ZZZZZ..
ZZZZZ..
SFX: SHIVER SHIVER
SFX: ZZZZZ...
SHH, DON'T MAKE A SOUND!
DAD!

SFX: ZZZZZ

MM—
SFX SCUFFLE SCUFFLE
WHAT A WHITE CHILD...
AND HIS HAIR... IT'S GOLDEN...
ひそ ひそ
SFX STARE
SFX WHISPER WHISPER
NO MATTER WHEN I COME...
THIS PLACE DOESN'T CHANGE, DOES IT?
D-DON'T TOUCH HIM!
GET AWAY! IT MIGHT BE ONE OF THE BANDITS' TRAPS!

THE TRAP IS BEHIND YOU
HUH?
SFX CRASH
EEEEEK!
WAAAAH!

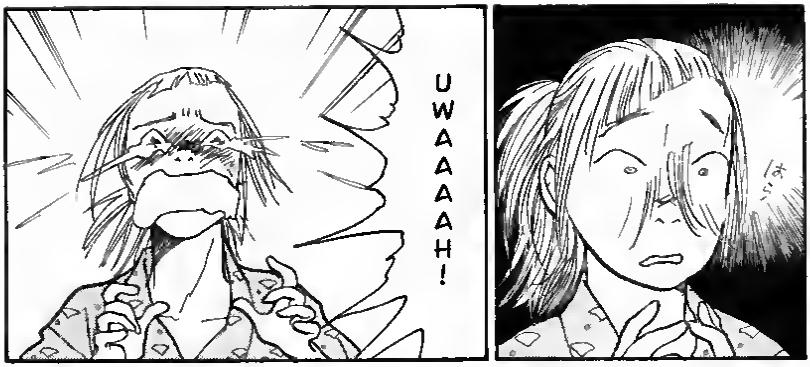

WHAT, ONLY WOMEN AND KIDS IN HERE?
SFX GLANCE GLANCE
ARE YOU AFRAID?
MISTER, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE VERY SOON

I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D BE MORE AFRAID IF YOU WERE TOLD BEFOREHAND
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, YOU BRAT!!
EEEEK!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, IT'S OVER NOW
SFX: FLOF
THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO LIVE, DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE.
AND ANY WHO CAN'T KILL THOSE WHO DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE HAVE NO PLACE WITH ME.

SFX SLASH
SFX SLUMP
Waah
Waah
WE'RE GONNA GO WHERE OUR MUMS AND DADS ARE
IF WE PRAY, WE'LL GO TO HEAVEN.
WE'RE GONNA BE KILLED ANYWAYS
HEY, BE QUIET!
WAAAAH!

南無阿弥陀仏
PRAYER NAMU AMIDA BUTSU
南無阿弥陀仏
南無阿弥陀仏
南無阿弥陀仏
南無阿弥陀仏
チャッ
SFX CLINK


UWAAAAH!
SFX
FLUTTER

LIKE I THOUGHT...
THAT'S THE FACE OF SOMEONE WHO'S ALIVE.
BOSS, WE'RE JUST ABOUT DONE HERE.
NOT A SINGLE MOUSE LEFT.
OKAY, BURN IT DOWN.

HMPH. THIS IS HELL.
I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL!
.....
SFX: GRAB
ぐっ
ちょんっ
SFX: HOIST

YOU, RIDE WITH ME.
WE'RE BRINGING THE RICE TO THE LANDLORD AT MIOU VALLEY.
THERE WE'LL TRADE IT FOR MONEY AND BOOZE, AND THEN WE'LL HAVE DAYS OF FEASTING! HYAHAHA!

SO MUCH FOR AN ARMY TO PROTECT THE LAND
SFX RUMBLE

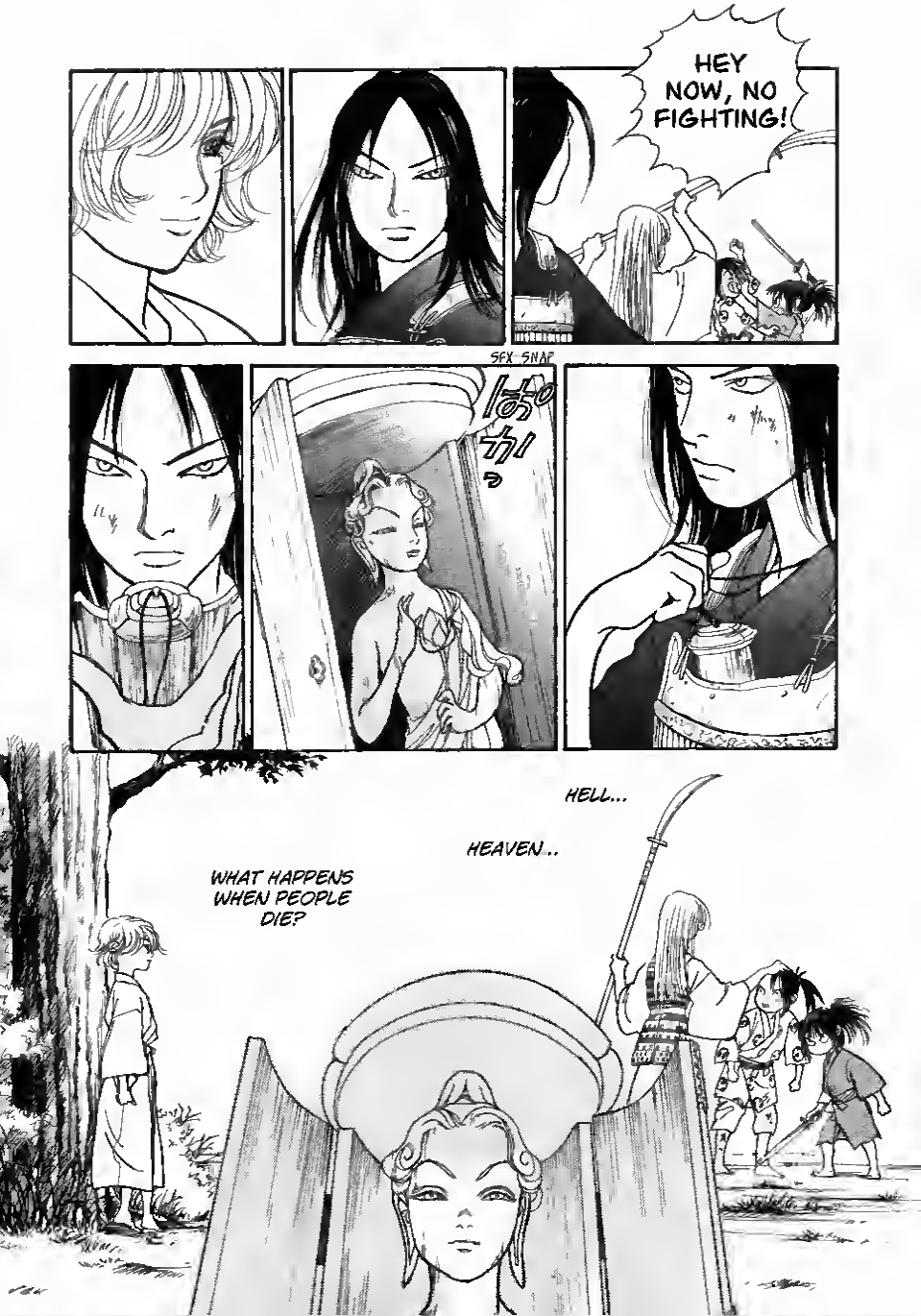
I'VE HEARD THAT PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM FAR, FAR AWAY IN THE WEST HAVE HAIR LIKE THIS, BUT...
HE CERTAINLY RESEMBLES THAT STATUE...
GOLDEN HAIR
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
ARE THEY REALLY SO AFRAID OF DYING?
PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN HEAVEN ALL HAVE THE SAME, BORING LOOK ON THEIR FACES.
DOES MY FACE LOOK LIKE THAT TOO?
YOU SAY INTERESTING THINGS FOR A BRAT.

CHIYO-MARU.
HOW ARE YOU CALLED?
I DON'T KNOW YET.
HMM... MAYBE
"A THOUSAND WORLDS," HM? ..HEHEHE
HO, THAT'S A NOBLE NAME FOR A FARMER..

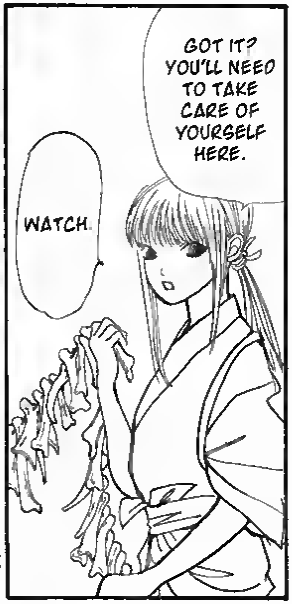
HEY, THIS ONE PEED HIMSELF!
GET DOWN, YOU.
WELCOME BACK

YESSIR!
YOU GUYS TAKE CARE OF THE REST
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE DAY YOU BROUGHT ME HERE
I GUESS I HAVE IT GOOD BECAUSE I ESCAPED FROM THAT WORLD.
MAKE NO MISTAKE, RIYO.
GROWING UP THAT WAY WOULD ONLY MAKE THEM THE SAME AS THOSE ADULTS.
THEY HAVE THE SAME LOOK IN THEIR EYES, AND THE SAME FEAR
IF HEAVEN FORSAKES US, THEY PRAY TO GOD IF WAR BEGINS, THEY DEPEND ON HUMANS
All right! We're feasting tonight!

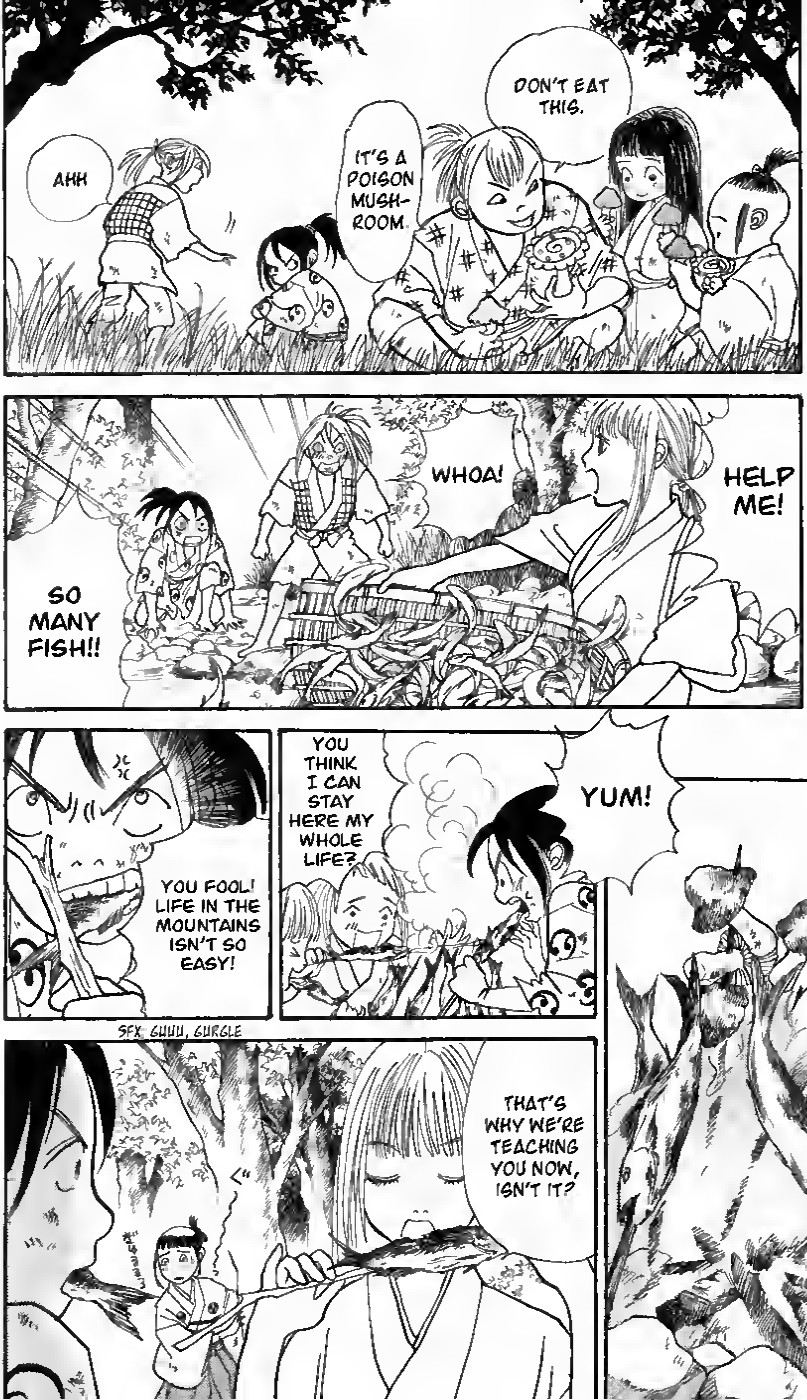
YOU GUYS ARE A HOBBY OF MINE.
IF I LET THESE KIDS LIVE, MAYBE I'LL GET TO SEE HEAVEN.
A DEGENERATE LIKE YOU BELIEVES IN HEAVEN AND GODS?
HEY, KIKUSUIMARU, YOU'RE STILL BEING LEFT OUT?
I'VE EVEN GOT THE LORD'S SON HERE.
BESIDES, I CAN USE YOU AS HOSTAGES IF IT COMES TO THAT.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
.....
IT'S JUST A GAME
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS HEAVEN.
YOU LITTLE BRAT!
WAAAHHH!


HEY NOW, NO FIGHTING!
SFX SNAP
HELL...
HEAVEN..
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE DIE?

GONSUKE!! DON'T BE DECEIVED!
BUT I EVEN GOT TO EAT WHITE RICE AGAIN, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE.
I DUNNO, WE MIGHT DIE TOMORROW...
WE... DIDN'T DIE, DID WE, HEITA?
THEY KILLED OUR PARENTS! OF COURSE THEY'LL KILL US TOO!
BUT... THOSE KIDS WERE BROUGHT HERE, JUST LIKE US, WEREN'T THEY..
I WILL KILL HIM.
THE BOSS HERE IS THAT TORAKICHI GUY.
OKAY? DON'T FORGET.


GOT IT? YOU'LL NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF HERE.
WATCH.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN
STRANGE
THEY DIDN'T KILL US TODAY, EITHER.


AHH
IT'S A POISON MUSH-ROOM.
DON'T EAT THIS.
SO MANY FISH!!
WHOA!
HELP ME!
YOU FOOL! LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS ISN'T SO EASY!
YOU THINK I CAN STAY HERE MY WHOLE LIFE?
YUM!
SFX. GUUU, GURGLE
THAT'S WHY WE'RE TEACHING YOU NOW, ISN'T IT?

ALL RIIIGHT!
CHANGE OF PLANS. I'M GONNA EAT AND EAT AND GET MY STRENGTH UP AND THEN I'M GONNA KILL THAT GUY.
GEEZ, GET IT TOGETHER ALREADY.
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
DON'T MOVE!

SFX SNAP

SFX WHUMP
WE'RE HAVING STEW TOMORROW.

HOW IRONIC
WHAT IS?
TEACH ME MORE CAT'S CRADLE!
SHUT UP! I'LL GIVE YOU THIS STRING, SO DO IT YOURSELF.
IT'S LATE GET TO BED, YOU BRATS.
WOMEN TOO.

IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE SPENDING HALF OUR TIME WORKING TO KEEP THEM FED.
THIS IS A PAIN, THOUGH.
EVEN IF WE SAY WE CAN USE THESE BRATS AS HOSTAGES,
WE OUGHTA JUST SELL 'EM OFF
A PERVERTED MONK WOULD PAY A GOOD PRICE FOR THAT KID.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TORAKICHI HERE. IF THAT HAPPENS HE'D KILL THEM ALL.
NO MATTER HOW LITTLE THEY ARE NOW. ONCE THEY GROW UP THEY'LL BE ABLE TO GO AFTER US
NEITHER DO WE.
TORAKICHI IS THE ONE WHO KEEPS THE CHILDREN ALIVE BUT THE BRATS DON'T GO NEAR HIM.
TORAKICHI WOULDN'T ALLOW IT,
AND RIGHT NOW THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN GO UP AGAINST HIM.
NO
THERE'S NO NEED TO DEFY HIM OPENLY. HE GOES ON HIS ROUNDS BY HIMSELF EVERY NIGHT, SO WE COULD JUST...

IN THE END, HE'S A MAN WHO CAN'T KEEP TO SOMETHING FOR VERY LONG
TORAKICHI IS A GENIUS, BUT STRANGE IT'S FRUSTRATING.

LET'S CALL IT A DAY.

TODAY, YOU'LL LEARN TO RIDE A HORSE
SFX WHEEZE, WHEEZE
AAAAH HHH!
EEEK!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT! YOU'RE YANKING TOO HARD ON THE REINS!
IF THE HORSE FEELS YOU TUGGING LIKE THAT, IT WON'T MOVE!
BUT THAT MEANS...
HE'S BASICALLY TELLING US TO RUN AWAY
WHY IS HE TEACHING US TO RIDE?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT A HORSE WAS FOR PULLING, NOT FOR RIDING
I CAN SEE SO FAR!

SFX RATTLE

SOMEPLACE MORE FUN?
YAY!!
SOMEPLACE MORE FUN
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THE WHITE KID AND THE LORD'S KID AREN'T HERE!
WHERE'S TORA-KICHI?
MONEY...
THAT MEANS...
WE WON'T GET ANY MONEY WITHOUT THEM.
LOOK IN THE GRASS IF YOU HAVE TO
HURRY UP, BEFORE TORAKICHI COMES BACK.

Get on!
Get on!
THEY'RE GETTING NOISY, HURRY!
NO!
YEAH...
LET'S GO.

THAT WAY IS A SEA OF FLAMES.
FIRES SET BY THE LORD'S ARMY.

SMOKE THEM OUT!
BURN DOWN THE MOUNTAIN!
KILL THEM ALL!

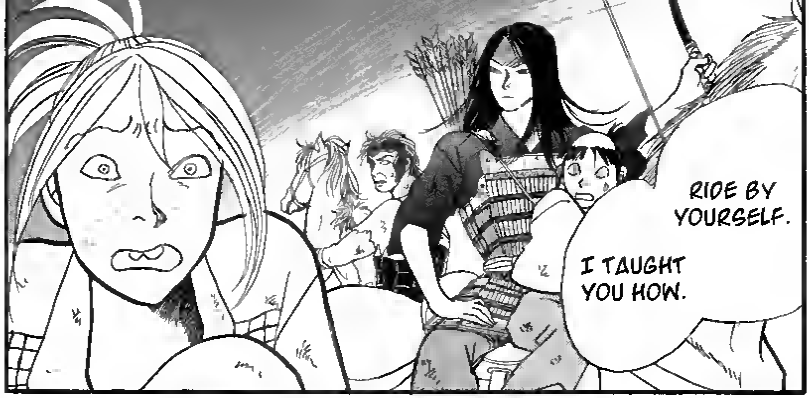
GET THEM WHEN THEY RUN ACROSS THE RIVER. KILL THEM ALL!
THE SON OF OUR LORD IS WITH THEM, NOT TO MENTION THE OTHER KIDS...
NO MATTER! A CHILD THAT'S LIVED WITH A WOLF IS A WOLF!
RAISE MY BANNERS. DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO TO GET TO TORAKICHI!

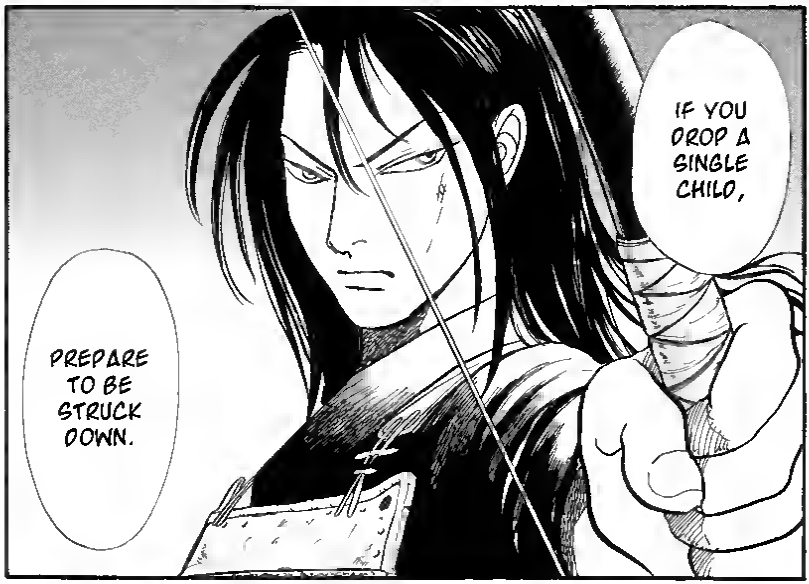
SHEESH.
HUMANS NEVER CHANGE

THE ONLY WAY TO GET AWAY IS TO BREAK THROUGH THEIR LINE AND MAKE IT TO THE LAKE ON THE BORDER.
THEY'RE WAITING TO CATCH US WHEN WE TRY TO ESCAPE THAT WAY.
MOST OF THEM ARE WAITING FOR US IN THE NORTH.
WE'LL TAKE THE KIDS AND RUN STRAIGHT THERE
IMPOS-SIBLE!
SFX EEEEK
GET OFF!
GO FIND THE LORD'S ARMY!
REALLY? THEY'LL SAVE US?
YEAH!
NAIVE, AREN'T YOU?
AS FAR AS THE LORD IS CONCERNED, WE CHILDREN ARE ALREADY DEAD.

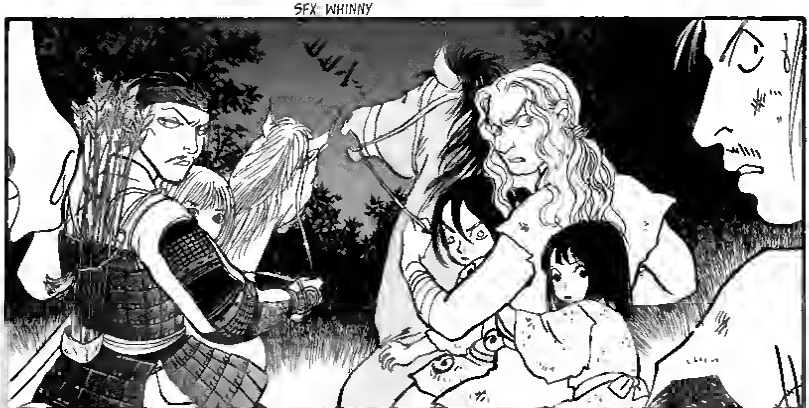
GO NORTH.
FOLLOW THE BEASTS.

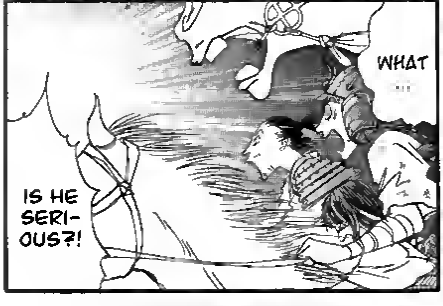
GYAH!

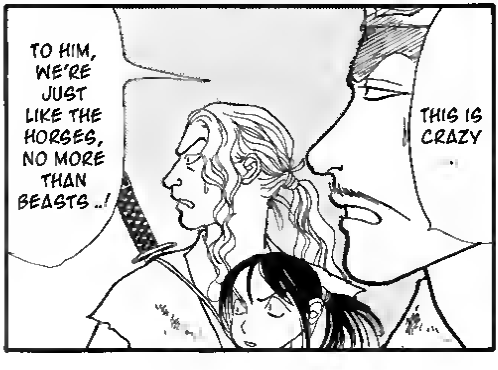

RIDE BY YOURSELF.
I TAUGHT YOU HOW.

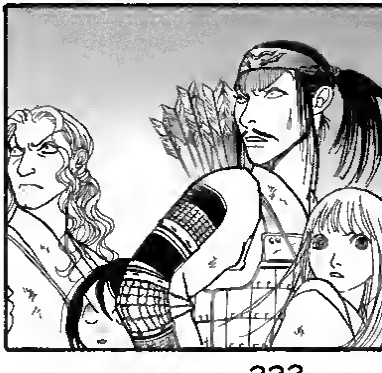

IF YOU DROP A SINGLE CHILD,
PREPARE TO BE STRUCK DOWN.

SFX WHINNY




WHAT ...
IS HE SERI-OUS?!


TO HIM, WE'RE JUST LIKE THE HORSES, NO MORE THAN BEASTS ..!
THIS IS CRAZY ..



GOOOO!
NO NO NO NO NO —
HOLD ON TIGHT!
SFX: WHIZ

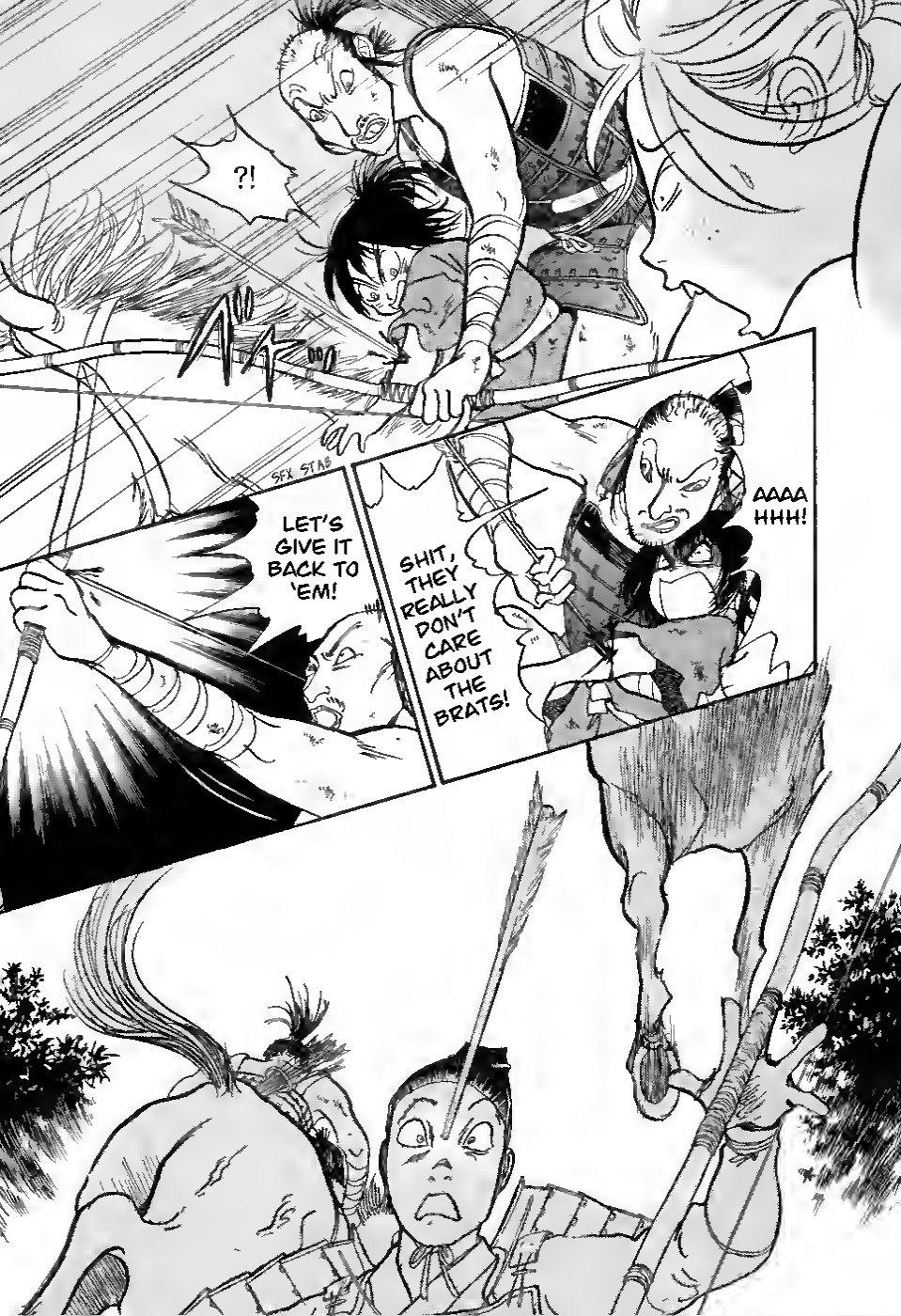
I'M KIKUSUIMARU! DON'T SHOOT!!
I... I'M THE LORD... THE LORD'S SON.
I DON'T NEED TO LOOK.
YOU HAVE BETTER NIGHT VISION TAKE A GOOD LOOK
KIKUSUI-MARU?
THE LORD'S SON?

THEY SAID WE'RE SUPPOSED TO KILL EVERY SINGLE—
I TAUGHT YOU TO RIDE
WE CAN SEE MANY TIMES BETTER IN THE DARK
EEP—
OH.
YEAH!

WE'LL RUN THEM DOWN.
WHINNY
THERE ARE MANY AT THE CROSSING
SFX: WHOOSH

YE...
YEEEEAAAAHHH!!
RUN, HORSE, RUN!
FASTER!

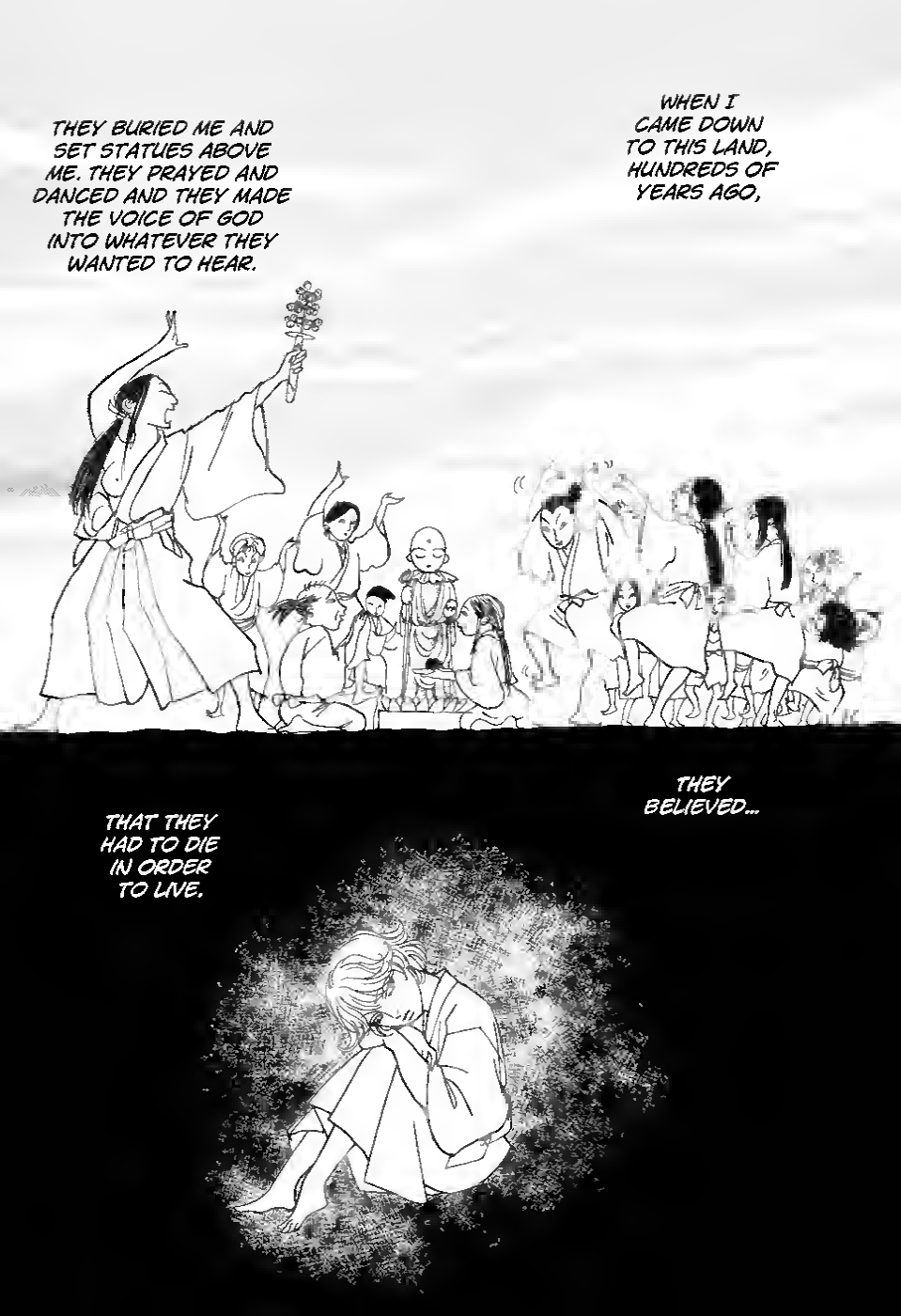
I'M GOING TO CHASE HIS BACK FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES, AND LIVE!!
EEEK!


?!
SFX STAB
LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO 'EM!
SHIT, THEY REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE BRATS!
AAAA HHH!

THAT SIDE ISN'T WELL-GUARDED!
GO, GO!
WHAT?! THEY'RE MAKING FOR THE CLIFF?!
SFX: FLIP
?!

YOUR HAND!
SFX COUGH
YOUR BACK!!
RIYO! THE REINS!!
JUST A BUNCHA MOSQUITO BITES. NUHAHAHA!

WE'RE ALMOST AT THE BORDER... GO.
JUST A LITTLE MORE...
THEY ARE ALIVE.


WHEN I CAME DOWN TO THIS LAND, HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO,
THEY BURIED ME AND SET STATUES ABOVE ME. THEY PRAYED AND DANCED AND THEY MADE THE VOICE OF GOD INTO WHATEVER THEY WANTED TO HEAR.
THEY BELIEVED...
THAT THEY HAD TO DIE IN ORDER TO LIVE.

TORAKICHI...
YOU'RE REALLY STRANGE, AREN'T YOU?

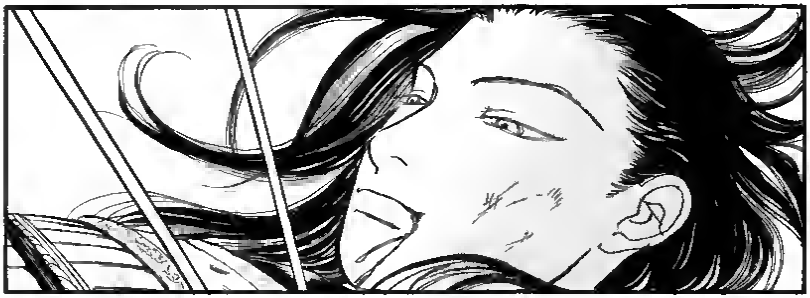
RIDE, RIDE, RIDE.
STOP, AND YOU WILL DIE.

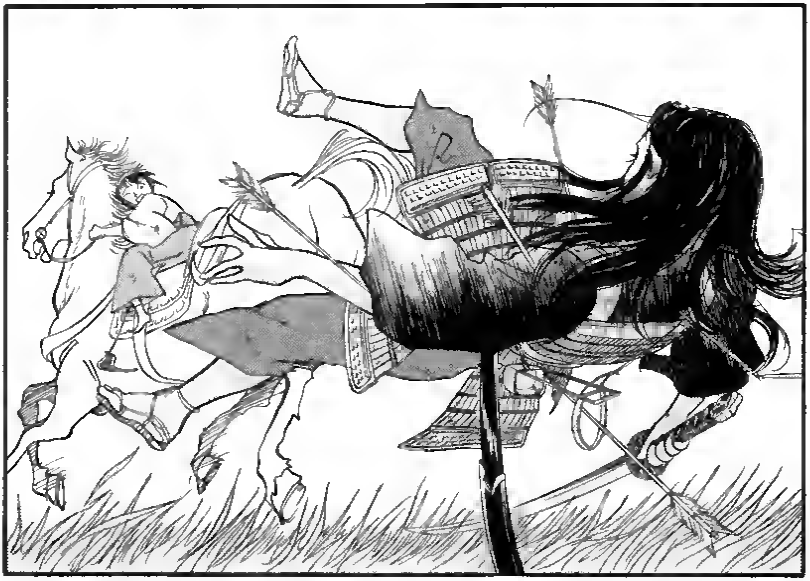
I DIDN'T THINK WE'D GET OFF THE MOUNTAIN ALIVE.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
HEH HEH.
GETTING KILLED THAT EASILY WOULD HAVE BEEN BORING
ARE THE BRATS ALL HERE?!
YEAH!

SFX ZING
LET'S GO!
WA WA WA WA..
TORA!!

HURRY!
WE'RE ALMOST AT THE BORDER!
NOOOO!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!
I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!!

THEN, LIVE.





CAN YOU SEE HEAVEN?

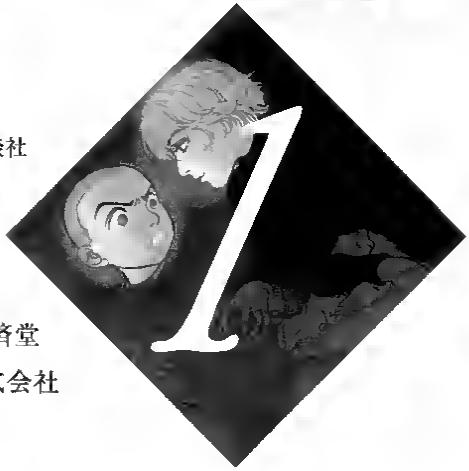
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE, SO I'LL TELL YOU.
SO THAT STATUE WAS... YOU...?
WHEN PEOPLE DIE, THEY'RE GONE, AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT...
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS HEAVEN OR HELL.

ARE YOU AFRAID?
IT'S ALL RIGHT...

THIS IS THE FACE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS LIVED...

不思議な少年

a Wonder Boy



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